



ARMED POLICE STORM MERRY HILL – FOR TERROR TRAINING



Armed officers take up position in the mall

THIS was the dramatic scene as armed police took over intu's Merry Hill shopping centre in a training exercise preparing officers for the possibility of a terror attack. Police carrying automatic rifles took up positions outside Nando's restaurant, as actors posing as victims laid strewn across the floor of the Black Country shopping centre. Images of the operation, which took place on Sunday night and was not publicised in advance, were released to the media on Monday. Police said they had kept the operation secret to allow the emergency services to respond as they would in a real attack. It is one of a number of exercises that have taken place across the country to

prepare for the threat of an attack by 'marauding gunmen', following in the wake of attacks in France and Germany. A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The area was tightly controlled and there was no impact on the public. Activity "Officers and security staff were on patrol during the night to reassure any local residents who may have been affected by increased activity, noise and presence of the emergency services. However, it was business as usual for the force and officers." Dan Murphy, general manager of intu Merry Hill, said: "We took part in a live training exercise with local emergency ser-

vices to test their response to a major incident. "We were delighted to be able to help the emergency services – who work hard to keep our community safe – with one of their regular, planned exercises." It was reported last summer that Britain's security services were probing at least four plots to commit terrorist atrocities, with shopping centres and stadiums thought to be at particular risk in the UK. One of the most notorious terror attacks of recent years was at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya. In 2013 Al-Shaabab gunmen murdered 67 people and wounded more than 170. ● More pictures – page 3

PETITION 4,491 sign support for leisure centres

A PETITION against the potential closure of three leisure centres in Dudley borough has now closed, reaching its deadline with a total of 4,491 signatures. Protesters previously stated that they would be pushing for a full council debate on the matter after they reached the milestone of 3,000 signatures. Dudley Council wants to demolish Halesowen Leisure Centre, Dudley Leisure Centre and The Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge, and then build two new centres, probably in Dudley and Lye, to save money. Development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said it was likely to be another three years before the plans came to fruition.

Clean-up begins before landmark venue can open again

HIPPODROME'S REVIVAL STARTS

CAMPAIGNERS have started work in Dudley's dilapidated Hippodrome theatre to bring the venue back to life.

A 15-strong team donned face masks, disposable paper suits, double gloves and hard hats to enter the building on Castle Hill, which has stood empty since 2009 and carries a low risk from asbestos. There is no power, so they brought their own generator and high power lights which illuminated a tangled mass of cables, ceiling tiles, air conditioning filters, tables, chairs and other debris. The Black Country Hippodrome group is spending around five hours every Saturday on a massive clean-up operation after the keys to the theatre were passed over to members by Dudley Council. They have already cleared the lobby and are now moving into the auditorium. While donning safety gear, Chairman of the Black Country Hippodrome Limited, Dr Paul Collins, said: "It is important to stress that it is not open to the public. Access has to be very carefully controlled. "People cannot walk around unaided and unsupervised. The building is not dangerous – but it is not safe either.

Marvellous

"It is a wonderful resource for the town but has been going to complete waste. It seats 1,752 and would be the eighth largest theatre in the West End of London." The 62-year-old continued: "We are determined to bring it back into use. This is not pie in the sky. Other theatres in the country have been saved and there is no reason why this one cannot be as well. "There is a tremendous groundswell of public interest and we will really capture their imagination when the building is safe enough for them to take a look." The group has a five-year lease on the former theatre and bingo hall. The venue first opened in 1938 and in

Report by John Scott

its heyday attracted such stars as Bob Hope, Laurel and Hardy, Gracie Fields, George Formby and Tommy Cooper. Paul Winchurch, a 65-year-old retired lorry driver and member of the Friends of the Hippodrome for four years, said: "The number of people who sound their horn or put their thumb up as they drive past while we are here shows the level of support there is for what we are doing." Colin Middleton, 74, a retired careers advisor from Kingswinford, recently joined the clean-up group. He explained: "They have battled so long and hard that I could not sit back any longer. I got Laurel and Hardy's autograph here as a youngster. "It was heartbreaking when I first saw the state it was in and would do anything to get it back to its former glory." Campaigners are working with architects on proposals for the building which include a three-storey extension. They must raise around £5 million to ensure all the plans can go ahead.



Dr Paul Collins in the huge auditorium at Dudley Hippodrome as the big clean-up began

TRAFFIC Safety push on road after deaths

COUNCILLORS are continuing to push for safety measures on a busy Dudley town centre road following two fatal accidents. Speed cameras and trees being cut back are both measures being considered to boost safety in Priory Road. Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward on Dudley Council, said he hopes that highways bosses will give an update on measures soon as urgent action is required.

DEVELOPMENT Offices proposed at former wine bar

A FORMER wine bar in Dudley could be turned into an employment agency creating around 15 jobs. Merlin's Wine Bar, in Wolverhampton Street, would undergo repair before being turned into the new venture. The building, which is listed as a heritage asset, is currently boarded up and has been empty for years. But now plans have been put forward by council bosses in a bid to revitalise it. Development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have submitted a planning application to convert this historical building into offices."

INSIDE ON THE RUN FOR CHARITY



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2 CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| PETER RHODES | 6 |
| LETTERS | 7 |
| CLUBS | 8 |
| THE TICKET | 23 |
| TV GUIDE | 26 - 28 |
| PROPERTY | 31 |
| MOTORING | 37 |
| SPORT | 43 & 44 |
| CONTACT US | |

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National TV plea over murder suspect



Niron Parker-Lee - dangerous

A NATIONWIDE television appeal was launched on Monday to catch a dangerous man wanted by police over a murder in Brierley Hill.

A photograph of murder suspect Niron Parker-Lee was being screened on Crimewatch on BBC One.

He is wanted in connection with the death of Mansoor Mahmood, who was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill's High Street on October 15.

Despite an appeal by West Midlands Police and the offer of a £2,000 reward, Parker-Lee has evaded officers.

A police spokesman said: "We have

asked Crimewatch for help to trace the whereabouts of Parker-Lee. Many people watch the show and it is another avenue we can use in our pursuit of the suspect."

There has been no update on the investigation since an appeal was issued back in November.

Mr Mahmood, aged 24, of Bague Walk, was stabbed in the stomach with a knife in the High Street shortly before 5pm on October 15, staggering into a fast food outlet before collapsing onto the floor. He later died in hospital from his injuries.

Detective Inspector Harry Harrison said he believed it was a targeted attack.

Officers scoured CCTV and named 19-year-old Niron Parker-Lee, also from Brierley Hill, as the key suspect.

He said: "Someone knows where this man is and I'd remind them that harbouring a wanted man is a criminal offence."

Parker-Lee was described as dangerous, and the public urged not to approach him. Any sightings of Parker-Lee should be reported to police on 999. Or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police used batons on fans after derby clash

FOOTBALL supporters were hit with batons by police following Friday night's game between Wolves and Birmingham City, which Blues won 2-1.

West Midlands Police has launched an investigation into the incident, which happened close to a subway under Wolverhampton railway station.

Nick Glynn, a retired policeman and Blues fan, captured the moment officers appeared to wield the weapons against Blues supporters on video.

He said he saw officers strike fans with the batons, adding: "It appears to me that the use of force by the police was excessive."

"What threat level do you need to strike someone somewhere where you could kill them? There should be an investigation into what the police did."

Mr Glynn, who was a police officer for the Leicestershire force for 31 years and now works for a human rights organisation, came across the disorder while on his way to the station from Molineux.

He said: "It looked like the fans reacted to being pushed by the police down a bottleneck. There was this absolute pressure to force them through a gap, which was too small. When they did not move immediately, the disorder happened. It lasted for about five minutes."

The 16 seconds of footage shows officers striking supporters with batons.

Match commander Chief Inspector Nick Rowe said officers were 'forced to quell the disorder and used appropriate and proportionate force' in a 'very challenging, yet isolated incident'.

Violent robber gets nine years for reign of terror

A ROBBER who went on a one-man crime spree, stealing three cars and robbing six stores in just 11 days, is this week starting a nine-year prison sentence.

One woman shop assistant was left unconscious by Philip Guest while another suffered a minor stroke, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 31-year-old, who had a £300-a-day drug habit, had 27 previous convictions involving 71 separate offences. He was armed with weapons, including hammers and a metal bat, on all but one of the raids, said Mr Oliver Woolhouse, prosecuting.

In a raid on the Delph Convenience store in Brettell Lane on January 14, Guest escaped with £1,400 cash and a £800 gold chain belonging to a female member of staff who was knocked out when he hit her on the head. Shortly afterwards Guest snatched £200 from the till at a newsagents in nearby New Street. A woman employee suffered a minor stroke after being pushed backwards as Guest grabbed £570 cash at the Windmill supermarket in Cradley.

Caravan

Police traced Guest to a caravan in Seymour Road, Stourbridge, where weapons used to threaten staff were found.

His crime spree had started at the McColl's store in Hill Street, Brierley Hill, on January 5, where he snatched £400 from the till and fled in a car, which he then filled with petrol without paying at the Tesco Express petrol station in Oldswinford on the following day.

On January 7 he had stolen a handbag in the car park at Sainsbury's Withymoor, before stealing a £795 Renault Scenic loaned to him at the Merry Hill Car Centre. He later stole a van loaned to him at Griffiths MoT centre.

He snatched £30 from Norgrove's newsagents on Drew Road, Pedmore, and stole a £4,800 van from Amlin Motors posing as a potential buyer.

He threatened the manager at the One Stop Shop in Hungry Hill, Stourbridge, with a baseball bat and stole £100.

Guest, of Whitethorn Road, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to robbery, theft and making off without payment. The court heard the crimes were to fund his cocaine habit.

Raring to go for Action Heart run



Jane Pugh, her son Gabriel, aged 12 and Louise Sanders get set for the five-mile Action Heart run this weekend

FUNDRAISING runners are lacing up their running shoes ready by the annual Action Heart five-mile charity event in Dudley on Sunday morning.

Starting and finishing at Russells Hall hospital, the event which is now in its 27th year raises thousands of pounds for the Dudley-based cardiac rehabilitation programme.

Jane Pugh, secretary of the Action Heart running club, said: "It is the perfect first race for people,

who would like to run or prefer to walk."

"Years ago it first started off as a way for people to regain their fitness level after coming off the cardiac programme, but now anyone can take part to raise funds."

"It starts and finishes at the hospital and then does a loop around the area from Himley Road, then up by Gornal Crematorium and down to the Pensnett Road."

There are prizes at the end for the fastest female or male - but ultimately anyone who wants to have fun can get involved."

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohammed Hanif and his wife, Mayoress, Zabeda Khanam will officially start the event at 9.30am.

The Action Heart programme in Dudley has been in existence since 1978. The Action Heart Centre is located in Russells Hall Hospital, providing exercise and lifestyle management for cardiac patients.

To join the run visit www.actionheartrunning.com website.

Three in accident taken to hospital

THREE people were taken to hospital following a serious crash on a main road near Kingswinford.

A 67-year-old woman driver was taken to the major trauma centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham with chest injuries and a suspected broken ankle after the accident last week.

The other driver, a 40-year-old man, was sent to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley with lower back pain.

His passenger, a 49-year-old woman, was also sent to Russells Hall with bruising to her chest and abdomen caused by the seatbelt.

Thirteen firefighters were sent to the scene of the accident on the A449 near Ashwood Nurseries, Wall Heath, as were two ambulances and paramedics.

MEP fears EU move to block Brexit

WEST Midlands UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge has warned Britain risks being 'held to ransom' by other European Union members unless it leaves the bloc as soon as possible.

Mr Etheridge, also a Dudley councillor, said he feared an attempt to block Brexit via 'rule changes'.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Big spring clean backed by council

COUNCIL chiefs are backing a national campaign aiming to get half a million people tackling litter this spring.

The Great British Spring Clean will be rolled out for the first time across the UK in March. Dudley Council is encouraging groups and individuals to help pick up litter across the borough.

Volunteers will be given free refuse sacks and can borrow litter pickers, gloves and other equipment. The council will collect the bagged waste.

For details email street.cleaning@dudley.gov.uk or call (01384) 814591.

Tenants urged to give their views

COUNCIL chiefs in Dudley have asked all of the borough's 22,000 housing tenants for their views in a survey to update the housing board.

The housing board is reviewing its constitution to 'ensure it is best placed to make positive contributions in the future'.

Residents can share their comments about the document online at www.dudley.gov.uk/housing. Housing boss Councillor Gave Partridge said: "The board has an important role to play in ensuring that the council provides the best housing service it can."

60 new homes for Rose Hill site

A SCHEME to build more than 60 homes has been backed by planning officers at Dudley Council.

The homes are proposed for Quarry Bank on Rose Hill.

A total of 42 houses would be built under the plans with a mixture of two and three storeys, together with 21 apartments located in three separate blocks.

As part of the project the derelict Albertene House would be demolished to make way for the new homes.

Copper piping is stolen from supermarket

METAL thieves struck at the Waitrose supermarket in Stourbridge, stealing copper piping from the branch.

A large amount of copper was stolen from inside the store at the Ryemarket shopping centre during the early hours of Monday, February 20.

Police spokeswoman Sharn Braich said: "Police were alerted to the theft of a large quantity of copper pipes from the Waitrose store in Stourbridge. Anyone with any information is asked to contact 101."

Pub spirits pinched

POLICE are appealing for information following a burglary at a Wetherspoons pub in Stourbridge. Bottles of spirits were stolen from the Chequers Inn, on High Street. Police were called at 4.30am on Wednesday, February 22. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Paedophile used hidden camera to film a child

A 35-year-old man from Cradley Heath who used a hidden camera to film a child, and downloaded and shared hundreds of indecent images of children, has been jailed.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Paul Mann, who had no previous convictions, began searching for indecent material after being introduced to a file sharing website to download music.

Mann also used a camera hidden in a shoebox to film a child and on two occasions 'manoeuvred' his victim.

Prosecutor Mr Christopher O'Gorman outlined how on November 3, 2015, police officers from the child sexual exploitation team carried out a raid at the defendant's home on Woodhouse Way after being alerted to his internet use.

During the search officers found two laptops and a memory stick, with the majority of the indecent material discovered on a laptop hidden in a bedroom wardrobe.

A total of 317 indecent photos and films, including seven Mann recorded, were discovered. Mann was sentenced after pleading guilty to two counts of sexual assault against a child, two counts relating to the production of indecent images of a child, three counts relating to downloading indecent images of children, and three counts of distribution. Mann will serve half of his 42-month sentence in custody. Officers also found 68 cannabis plants at his home. For two drug offences he received two-month jail terms, to run concurrently.

Fatal reaction to anaesthetic

A MAN died after he suffered a massive allergic reaction to anaesthetic given to him in an emergency operation.

Paul Footman, of Terrace Street, Brierley Hill, was being treated at Russells Hall Hospital on November 2 last year when he suffered the reaction.

The 54-year-old was rushed to hospital for an operation to his arm but suffered a cardiac arrest during the procedure when he went into anaphylactic shock in the operating theatre.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique gave a verdict of accidental death because of the 'reaction to the anaesthetic' and said Mr Footman had suffered a 'massive allergic reaction'.

Wolves profit but Villa make big loss

WOLVES have announced a profit for the last financial year – as Aston Villa revealed shock losses of £81.3 million. Molineux bosses revealed their £5.8m profit was mainly down to the sale of Benik Afobe.

Father died after he wasn't told about tumour



Wayne Evans, of Sedgley, with wife Clare

A FATHER-OF-TWO has died after doctors forgot to tell him about his deadly tumour.

Wayne Evans, 41, from Sedgley, was suffering from severe stomach cramps when he was sent for tests but, after hearing nothing back from his GP, he assumed his results were normal. But three years later, Mr Evans began to deteriorate and after visiting his doctors was left shocked to be told a mass was found on his previous scan and that he required urgent care.

The tumour was by then inoperable

and despite undergoing chemotherapy, he died in 2013.

Now, the GP practice – Ridgeway Surgery in Sedgley – has agreed to pay a six-figure damages settlement to his wife, Clare, after his scan results were filed away.

Clare, 45, a sales assistant, said: "My life with never be the same, I cannot accept that Wayne's fate lay on a piece of paper for three years."

"He was forgotten about and it wasn't until he went back in pain that alarm bells started ringing."

"Wayne was shocked when his doc-

tor asked if he'd had any follow up appointments as he'd never been contacted after the initial tests.

"His tumour had been left to grow for three years and by the time they tried to operate, it was far too advanced and he died in 2013."

"If it had been removed when he had the first tests, it's likely he would be cancer free today and we wouldn't have such a gaping hole in our family."

Ridgeway Surgery were unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Armed police prepare to combat terrorist threat

A DRAMATIC staging of a response to a terrorist attack took place at Merry Hill shopping centre in Brierley Hill, with dozens of armed police officers acting out the scenario of protecting shoppers and staff.

Assistant chief constable Marcus Beale has said 'recent national and international events' showed the need for police to test their plans to deal with terrorism.

The operation was kept under wraps as actors posing as victims laid strewn across the floor of the Dudley centre on Sunday after it had been shut to the public.

Police carried automatic rifles outside the Eat Central complex as fake explosions and fires were conducted inside.

Mr Beale said: "Routine exercises like this are important as they enable us to test our ability to deal with large scale incidents."

"I would like to thank intu Merry Hill and the community for their support."

He added that the exercise was not based on any threat or intelligence regarding the Black Country shopping centre, apart from general concern that shopping malls are on terrorist hit lists.

Last year a gunman in Munich murdered nine people during a shopping centre shooting spree. In 2013 67 people were killed when gunmen attacked a shopping centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

On Sunday Max Hill QC, the independent reviewer of terrorism laws, said that Britain faced a terror threat not seen since the IRA bombings of the 1970s, and that Islamist extremists were targeting UK cities.

He said that there was 'enormous concern' over the threat posed by British jihadis returning from Syria after fighting for the so-called Islamic State.

Controlled

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "The area was tightly controlled and there was no impact on the public." Officers and security staff were on patrol during the night to reassure any local residents who may have been affected by increased activity, noise and presence of the emergency services.

Dan Murphy, general manager of intu Merry Hill, said: "We took part in a live training exercise with local emergency services to test their response to a major incident."

It was reported last summer that Britain's security services were probing at least four plots to commit terrorist atrocities.



Guns at the ready - armed police take up positions outside a restaurant at Merry Hill shopping centre



Police prepare to engage attackers as a 'victim' hides



Officers during the training exercise at Merry Hill

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COUNTY NEWS

15pc increase in temporary posts

TEMPORARY posts in the West Midlands rose by 15 per cent in 2016, according to a study.

Research by the Association of Professional Staffing Companies revealed permanent vacancies also increased, up five per cent year-on-year to January. There was a particular rise in temporary posts in the legal and IT sectors.

Julie Selby, of APSCo, said: "After months of increased optimism across the West Midlands, professional job availability in the temporary market has risen once again."

Mixed results on business rates

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce says there will be winners and losers when the new business rates revaluations arrive in April.

The region's seven metropolitan borough councils will keep all business rates revenue generated from April 1 when the existing revenue support grant from central Government stops.

Overall West Midlands retail rates will go down 11 per cent on average, offices by 16 and industry seven.

Chamber chief Corin Crane said there was already a backlog of individual appeals against existing rates.

Charges increased by fire service

WEST Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority is increasing the amount residents pay in their council tax for the service by 1.99 per cent.

At a full meeting of the authority last week, members approved a budget for 2017/18 which means the fire service part of Band D Council Tax bills will go up by £1.11 for the year to £57.14.

In 2017/18, WMFRA will get £54.7m from the Government and will raise £39.4m via council tax.

Justice scheme cuts down on re-offending

A SCHEME tackling anti-social behaviour by young people across the West Midlands has helped 78 people since it started in 2014.

The Restorative Justice programme, run by the West Midlands Safer Travel Partnership, encourages young people to understand and pay back for what they have done, instead of prosecuting them.

Police said just one in 20 young people who have undertaken the programme have offended since.

Flying high on top list

COSFORD'S Royal Air Force Museum has been voted in the top 10 on a list of the UK's best-loved free attractions.

The museum came seventh out of 50 destinations. It's the highest-ranked museum on the list, compiled by National Express.

Churches and mosques charged for extra waste

CHURCHES, mosques and other places of worship across Dudley will now be charged for some rubbish collections.

Anything more than one wheelie bin or three sacks of waste will have to be paid for from April.

Businesses are also facing a rise in costs for waste collection, under changes announced by Dudley Council.

Bosses said the charges are necessary due to rising costs.

Places of worship will now have to pay from £1.20 up to £8.52 depending on how much waste is left for collection. However, one 180-litre wheelie bin or three sacks of rubbish will still be collected free of charge.

Dudley Council said it had written to 41 places of worship in the borough to inform them of the charges.

Collection charges to some businesses will increase by five per cent.

Small collections from businesses or factories, up to 10 bags of rubbish, will now cost £51.07 and large collections £96.40.

The council said its waste disposal costs had risen by 4.26 per cent.

The council's environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The council classes places of worship as

households in respect of their waste collection, and as such they are eligible for the same free service as our residents. However, any waste generated over and above this, for example from meetings and events being held in church halls, is classed as trade waste and is therefore chargeable.

"The charge is discounted to reflect the important role that places of worship have in our community."

Candidate wants to see revival of rail routes

TWO defunct Black Country rail routes will be in line to be reopened as part of a mayoral candidate's plans to bust congestion in the West Midlands.

Andy Street has pledged to bring both the Stourbridge to Walsall line and the Walsall to Wolverhampton route back into operation – if he is successful in his bid to become the region's first Metro Mayor.

These two routes have been championed for years by rail campaigners, and the Conservative candidate has pledged to secure the funding to make it a reality. Mr Street has already backed the tram network extension to Brierley Hill.

He said: "The longer-term aspirations need to be ignited now. I want to commit to beginning serious talks around these two additional lines."

Mr Street has also pledged a major step change in investment in cycling and walking routes.

"The fact that the West Midlands is being strangled by congestion is well documented," he added. "Almost two-thirds of journeys are made by car and, at peak times, 81 per cent of cars have just one person in them. "Giving people a viable alternative to driving is the key to busting the congestion that is bad for people and bad for business. Investment in cycling and walking also needs a major boost."

Mr Street will be appearing at the Express & Star's Mayoral hustings at the Black Country Living Museum on March 7. See expressandstar.com for details.

Tenants urged to help run estates

A SERIES of tenants and residents' association meetings are being held across Dudley during March.

The council encourages the involvement in the running of estates.

The groups discuss many issues relating to their estates and discuss ideas of how they can help to make improvements.

Sessions are scheduled in Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Netherton. Anyone who wishes to attend or find out more can call (01884) 815168.

Updates are regularly posted on housingtakecontrol.org.uk/ and at facebook.com/participationindudley. Residents are also reminded to sign up to the community council e-bulletin at community.council@dudley.gov.uk with their postcode and house number.

Cellist hosts concert for talented students

BRITISH cellist, conductor and principal of Birmingham Conservatoire Julian Lloyd Webber will be hosting a musical performance in Bromsgrove by Conservatoire students. It is at the Artrix Arts Centre on March 29 at 7.30pm. To book call 01527 577330.

8,500 more smokers stub out habit for good

By Jamie Brassington

THE number of smokers in Dudley borough is falling with almost 8,500 more people ditching the habit by last year.

New figures from NHS England show there were 45,500 smokers across the borough between April 2013 to March 2014, but this dropped to 37,000 between April 2015 and March 2016.

It comes as the use of smoking aids in the borough has also dropped by two thirds in the last three years.

Dudley Council leaders welcomed the drop which they said it was helped by the personal support that people can receive from stop-smoking services.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We're pleased to see a drop in the number of smokers, aged 18 and over, in Dudley.

"This is in part due to the personalised support that people who access our stop smoking service receive.

Support

"Working closely with GPs and pharmacies, the service provides support, encouragement and practical solutions for people who want to kick the habit."

Councillor Harris said that pressure would ease on councils and the NHS as more people gave up the unhealthy habit.

She said: "Any decrease in the number of people smoking is good news for those individuals and also reduces the demand on council and NHS services long-term.

"We will continue to work together to help people who want to stop smoking find a solution that works for them."

The number of smoking aids prescribed by doctors in Dudley has dropped by around 4,000 since 2013.

There were 6,531 prescriptions of nicotine substitution therapy handed out in the borough during 2013/14. This dropped to 2,202 in 2015/16.

Seeing double at nurses' sister act



Twin sisters Alexandra Hanson and Sophie Germain both work as nurses in A&E

PATIENTS visiting two local hospitals might think they are seeing double when they bump into twin sisters Alexandra and Sophie.

Both A&E nurses, Alexandra Hanson is based at Sandwell Hospital, while Sophie Germain is at City Hospital. The siblings are not identical but are difficult to tell apart. The sisters have always worked together and were first employed at the Trust nine years ago.

Alexandra, from Wednesbury, said: "After we qualified as nurses, we worked in Sandwell Hospital on the same floor. Sophie would work the day shift and then I was on the night shift. I remember colleagues used to think I worked 24 hours.

"When I came on my shift, doctors would ask me questions like 'have you not gone home yet?' or 'are you not tired?' It was really funny."

Sophie, from Sedgley, added: "There was one occasion when a patient came running up to me and hugged me. He said 'hello Alex, how are you?' I had to explain that I was Sophie."

Working together as nurses also has its advantages. In 2012 the twins witnessed an accident involving an eight-year-old girl.

Alexandra explained: "The girl had been hit by a van. We rushed straight to her. Sophie held her, just in case she had a spinal injury and tried to stop the bleeding. I reassured the van driver who looked like he was going to pass out. The girl was taken to hospital, where she was successfully treated. I'm glad we were both in the right place at the right time to help."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Delays warning over 20mph limit

A MAIN road heading into Dudley has become a temporary 20mph zone and will continue so for a fortnight.

Speed will be restricted on Tipton Road in both directions until March 17. The speed limit will be in place between 9.30am and 3.30pm on weekdays while resurfacing work is being carried out. The limit will return to normal during peak times in a bid to keep disruption to a minimum.

The move could cause delays on the road which runs past the Black Country Living Museum to Birmingham New Road.

Valli tribute to boost hospice

SINGER Stephen James will be performing his critically acclaimed Frankie Valli tribute show for one night only in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

The show profiles the rise of the Four Seasons frontman in the style of the Jersey Boys stage show.

Stephen will perform at The Granary Hotel in Shenstone, near Kidderminster, on March 23. Included in the £24.95 ticket price is a full evening meal. To book tickets call the hospice fundraisers on (01384) 377 778 or email diane@mshfundraising.co.uk

Bev's jazz night at village venue

A JAZZ concert is being staged in Hagley, near Stourbridge, to raise money for the Mary Stevens Hospice and other Rotary charities.

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge is organising the evening with Bev Pegg and His Good Time Jazz Gang in Hagley Community Centre on March 18 at 8pm. Tickets are £15 via (01384) 371999.

The band led by Halesowen-born singer-guitarist Bev features top musicians from across the region.

Mayor hosting curry night for his charities

THE Mayor of Dudley will be hosting a curry night next month to raise funds for his nominated charities.

Aashiq's restaurant in Kent Street, Dudley, has agreed to run the event starting at 7.30pm on Tuesday, March 7. Tickets cost £20 for an Indian feast plus entertainment. Tickets are available by calling 07412 531924.

Profits will be donated to Councillor Mohammed Hanif's charities, which are Friends of Alfie Johnson, Dudley CIL and Diabetes UK Dudley branch.

Black Country art show

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is hosting an exhibition by Black Country artist Ken wood.

His paintings of Black Country industry, waterways and family life are on show at the trust's base The Portal base off Birmingham New Road until April 14.

Urgent bid launched to save mental health hub

COUNCILLORS have called for an emergency meeting to stop a mental health support centre in Dudley being closed.

Dove House, in the grounds of Bushey Fields Hospital, Russells Hall, is due to shut on June 30.

The centre currently sees around 60 patients regularly for support sessions and is open five days a week.

However, a phased closure is under way with the centre closing for one extra day per month before completely shutting its doors in June.

Councillor Stuart Henley, health and wellbeing spokesman for UKIP at Dudley Council, has asked for an emergency meeting with council officers in a bid to prevent the closure.

Leader of the UKIP group, Councillor Paul Brothwood, said: "This decision needs to be looked at again."

"The centre provides very cost-effective support for those with mental health issues. The effect of closing it is that we are going to see more people attending hospital. In the long-term, it will cost more money."

One of those who relying on the support provided by Dove House, which is run by charity Dudley Mind, is Ken Parsons from Netherton. The 64-year-old said: "They don't realise that by closing Dove House, people will go into crisis and end up in accident and emergency."

Dudley Mind chief executive Martin Mueller said: "Our staff are working with people who attend Dove House to let them know where they can find mental health services elsewhere."

Planners reject homes scheme

A BID to demolish a Kingswinford pub and replace it with homes has been rejected by planning chiefs.

The Summerhouse, on The Portway, looked set to face the bulldozers but the move has been blocked by Dudley Council officers who ruled they were not satisfied with the housing plan due to concern over road safety.

They also criticised the 'cramped' design of the development for a total of 18 properties on the site of the closed down pub, so developers the Coyne Group have been sent back to the drawing board.

A key concern among planning experts was that cars parked at the new homes could restrict the view of motorists.

Seven properties approved on site

HOMEs are to be built on the former site of a Halesowen haulage firm after plans were approved. Seven properties will go on the site of W Merris and Son at Narrow Lane. Plans were given the green light by Dudley Council.

Mother wrongly took £20,000 in benefits

A MOTHER claimed more than £20,000 in benefits she was not entitled to.

Emma Aston, of Stour Hill, Brierley Hill, failed to tell benefit assessors that she was living with husband Mark Aston and instead claimed that she was living as a single mother.

The 46-year-old claimed housing benefit from Dudley Council and income support from the Department for Work and Pensions.

She was paid a total of £20,684 between January 2011 and February 2015 which she was not entitled to. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that when the claims were originally made she was entitled to the money. However, just a few weeks later, the couple were back living together.

Prosecuting, Gurdeep Garcha, said: "This relates to a housing benefit claim and an income support benefit claim where the claims were not fraudulent from the outset, but the claimant did not notify the authorities of a change of circumstance that would have affected those payments."

Reconciled

"She claimed that she was an unemployed single parent who had care of her young children with no other income other than what she had declared. It wasn't long after this claim was granted that she had reconciled with her husband and they were living together again."

He added: "This came to light in 2015 at which

point she had wrongfully claimed a large sum. She had numerous chances to tell the authorities that her circumstances had changed but didn't."

Aston, who represented herself, said: "I didn't know what he was going to do, whether he was going to stay or not. I was suffering with depression at the time and I am sorry for what I did."

She pleaded guilty to two charges of dishonestly failing to notify a change of circumstances effecting entitlement. As well as paying the money back, Aston was ordered to do 100 hours' unpaid work.

Recorder Paul Atkinson said: "I don't think it would be right to send you to prison because of your clear remorse, good character and willingness to pay back this money."

Four community heroes have been nominated for a top award by a the Mayor Dudley

Now the people of Dudley have been asked to pick a winner from the quartet of nominees for the borough mayor's top award. Councillor Mohammed Hanif said the nominees have all stood out to him during his mayoral year.

The public can now go online to vote for the one they feel most deserves the award. The winner of the prize will be announced at the mayor's charity ball next month.

The nominees are Rose Cook, a film-maker who has produced a documentary and charity events celebrating the life of Duncan Edwards; Keith Stroyde, who runs an internet café and support group for people in need in Lye; The Diyya Project, which provides help and support to tackle isolation amongst women and teenage girls in the borough's Muslim community; and Shaz Saleem, a Dudley charity fundraiser and chairman of the Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association.

Councillor Hanif said: "I have met some incredible people in my duties as mayor of Dudley and it was very difficult selecting just four for the mayor's award."

"I am delighted to be able to share the opportunity to celebrate the work they do in this borough through the mayor's civic awards, but it is up to the people who eventually wins the award."

Spirit

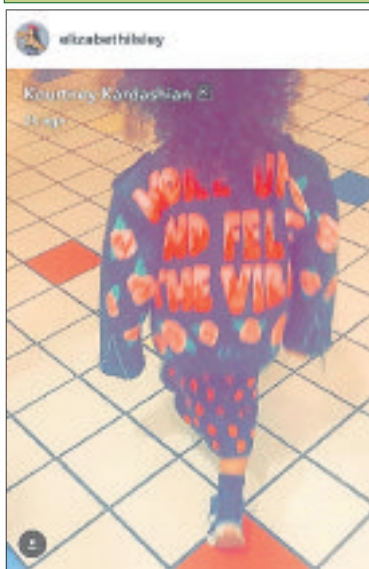
Nominations for the other six categories are now closed and the winners will be chosen by a judging panel over the next few weeks. They are the Duncan Edwards award for sport, the Cedric Hardwicke award for arts, the Frank Foley award for community spirit, the Thomas Attwood award for education, the Mike Holder award for business, and the William Shenstone award for environment.

The winners and runners-up will be presented with their prize, which is a bespoke piece of glass designed by local glass artist Alister Malcolm and a certificate by the mayor at his Ball and Civic Awards at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill on March 18.

The annual ball raises thousands of pounds for the mayor's chosen charities each year.

To buy tickets visit www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/the-evening and to vote visit www.mayorofdudley.org.uk/the-mayors-award

Kanye boost for jacket designer



North West was snapped on social media wearing the jacket designed by Sedgley's Elizabeth Ilsley

KANYE West and Kim Kardashian's daughter, North West, has been seen wearing a one-of-a-kind leather jacket - decorated by an artist from the Black Country.

Elizabeth Ilsley, from Sedgley, started painting leather jackets in her bedroom but now has an array of celebrity customers to add to the list, including Florence Welch from Florence + the Machine, pop singer Kesha and rock band Slaves.

The three-year-old was snapped by the press sporting her very own leather jacket painted and designed by 21-year-old Elizabeth.

The bespoke jacket, with the words 'woke up and felt the vibe' across it, was specially requested by Kanye.

Elizabeth, who studied at Halesowen College, said: "Kanye got in touch and asked me to paint four jackets - three jackets for his daughter North and one for

his wife Kim. He shipped over his own jackets which he wanted me to work on and I painted Kanye West lyrics on them at his request."

"I couldn't believe it when I saw the photos of North wearing them. I had a couple of people message me to tell me that Courtney had put it on her social media. Ever since I've had hundreds of messages and the number of customer orders and praise I'm getting is crazy."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



OK now, for cinematic just ready very boring

THE BBC's latest big-budget costume drama has attracted some controversy, with viewers reportedly switching off after 10 minutes because they could not understand the mumbling characters.

Well, I managed half an hour before switching off because it was very dull. Perhaps I should have paid more attention to the previews, where the words "CGI" and "cinematic" seemed to figure heavily. I do wonder whether these words are a secret industry code for "very boring".

Whenever a programme or film is promoted on the basis of its computer-generated imagery, or CGI, it always seems to be far more about showing off the technical prowess than coming up with an entertaining story.

And cinematic just seems to be a euphemism for extremely slow. Endless shots of folk just standing around looking broody, or exchanging knowing glances at one another. Not actually doing anything, just looking like they might.

We can only speculate on what life might have been like in a Nazi-occupied Britain, but I really doubt it would have led to a notable increase in people going around glaring at one another, or moodily dragging on cigarettes in doorways before petulantly throwing the butt away.

The bloke I really blame for all this is Inspector Morse. Before he came along, detective dramas were slick, tightly edited, fast-paced and - exciting. Then when he came along it was all street scenes, random students walking about or riding bikes, with a bit of crime in between.

Maybe next time, somebody could come up with a drama that is a little bit less "cinematic", but a bit more entertaining?

□□□

A UNIVERSITY in Budapest has carried out research into people aged 18 to 24, and concluded that separating them for any length of time from their mobile phones resulted in symptoms akin to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Yep, you've read that right. There is a section of society which finds a few hours without being able to check their credit score or stare at a cute cat video as harmful to them as others do enduring some of the most unimaginable hardships in the battlefield.

The study found that three-quarters of those who took part showed signs of stress, including fidgeting and scratching. Of course, it would be wrong to tar all young people with the same brush, and we must remember how many of this generation have served their country with courage and dignity in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the fact that millions are so attached to their electronic comfort blanket that they can't bear to be separated for a few hours is terrifying. Let's hope we never need to call them up for another war.

No Mr Blair, this time people did know how to vote



LUCY Brown who was asked for a cash donation after an uninspiring date



Tony Blair is calling for people to now change their mind over Brexit



Lord Newby says some peers do not have the 'stomach' to delay Brexit legislation

Thanks for advice Tony, now shove it

THIS is what His Serene Magnificence Tony Blair says about Britain voting to leave the EU: "The people voted without knowledge of the true terms of Brexit. As these terms become clear, it is their right to change their mind." Now, apply those same words to the 1975 referendum when Britain voted to stay in the Common Market. Back then, we certainly voted without knowledge of the true terms. We thought we were joining a free-trade area but were gradually swallowed into an undemocratic and unaccountable superstate. We had the right to change our mind and in last year's referendum we did so. The difference between the 1975 and 2016 referendums is that in 1975 we had no idea what the EU would become. Now we know exactly what it's about. So thanks for the advice, Tony, now shove off. Aren't you supposed to be bringing peace to the Middle East or something?

LORD Newby says some peers do not have the 'stomach' to delay the Government's Brexit legislation. Stomach? I suspect what's missing is a little lower in the anatomy. The House of Lords knows that if it frustrates the will of the people, then the people might start asking why we need 850 Lords in the first place. Might things be greatly improved by having 100, 50, or none at all?

A READER says he likes the term "de-extincting," as applied to woolly mammoths, and wonders what other things might be de-extincted. He suggests good manners, respect for elders and Beer at Home means Davenports. Any other suggestions for the de-extinction list?

INCIDENTALLY, good luck with de-extincting respect for elders. The snag is that it has probably never existed. Who was it who said: "The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show dis-

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



respect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise"? It was Socrates, writing about 2,500 years ago. No change there.

THINGS to do on a rainy day. The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford has a folklore exhibition featuring "a collection of objects highlighting folk traditions of Oxfordshire including a Morris dancer's outfit, whit horns, lighting appliances and a lace maker's dick pot."

A READER asks whether I have any strong views of the Church of England's latest furore over same-sex marriages. Not really. It is hard to get worked up about the opinions of people who believe, without any evidence, that some benevolent sky-god is watching over us. I don't really care what superstitious people think about God, the Devil and heaven and hell, so why should I fret about their views on genitalia? As far as we can tell, the Church of England is morphing into a social club for people who just want to be sweet to each other, with none of that nasty, old-fashioned stuff about sin. More than 20 years ago I forecast the creation of the Church of Jesus Christ The Really Nice Bloke. I am sure it has a great future.

AN Appeal Court ruling this week suggests the law may soon permit civil partnerships, currently restricted to same-sex couples, for heterosexual couples, too. But could the whole process be overtaken by the astonishing rise of gender rights? There is growing pressure for people to be able to "self-identify" their gender. Lawmakers in California have proposed a

"non-binary" choice for people who wish to be neither male nor female on official documents including birth certificates and driving licences. In a world where people can be any gender they choose, or none, any couple could qualify for a civil partnership simply by claiming to be the same sex.

MEANWHILE, one US university already offers a choice of six gender identities for new students: male, female, trans male/trans man, trans female/trans woman, gender queer/gender non-conforming and "different identity". Confused? It has hardly started. An online guide offers no fewer than 81 definitions of sexual possibilities and gender-identity issues. Something for everyone?

THANKS for your continuing accounts of truly awful first dates. A reader tells me of an over-confident lad who took his girlfriend on a hot-air balloon flight and romantically proposed to her at 2,000 feet. She turned him down. They were stuck in that balloon basket for the next 45 minutes with the pilot and by the time it landed the mood on board was positively polar. Moral: always plan your escape route.

LUCY Brown, a London-based clothes designer, had an uninspiring date through an online dating agency. She decided to let the man down gently with a text explaining she was not interested in a second meeting. She was astonished when the 'normal and sweet' man replied saying he was devastated and asking for 'a contribution for the drinks I spent on you'. She sent him £42.50 and made an equal donation to a donkey sanctuary. And they say romance is dead.

A READER writes: "I purchased a hanging basket of spring flowers this weekend. The instructions say: Keep out of draughts."

TALKING POINT

Don't judge people by the way they look

I HAVE never really been a follower of fashion, as people who know me will testify. I wear what I feel comfortable in and cannot see the point of paying £50 for shoes or trousers when pairs for £10 or £20 do the same job, particularly as we are meant to be living in times of austerity.

That does not mean I don't care about my appearance. And, of course I have no problem with people wishing to pay over the odds if that's what they want. That's their prerogative, and if they can afford it, why not?

But remember, a trend is just that. Weeks/months down the line, everyone will be wearing something different.

Take holey jeans, for example. What are those all about? During a weekend away, I saw hordes of youngsters wearing these.

It was ironic there was a town nearby called Patcham - the sort of thing my mum would have done if I had worn holey jeans!

While on the same break I was served in one shop by a girl with hair of so many colours she looked like she had bathed in a vat of Skittles - and could have been the inspiration for a McFly hit. And she had so many facial piercings it was like talking to a pin cushion.

But joking aside (and I really am) it is these kind of attitudes and prejudices we need to stamp out.

So often we hear of girls pressured into being a certain size, or bullies hiding behind social media anonymity, all because their targets have different looks or tastes or beliefs to that of their own.

The shop girl I encountered was most helpful and pleasant, as one would expect.

Isn't it time we looked beyond people's appearances, be it tattoos, dress sense, size or whatever it may be? Let them be comfortable in their own skin. The old adages of 'each to their own' and 'leave people be' spring to mind.

We cannot expect everyone to look or dress identically, follow the same football teams or be fans of the same kind of music, television programme or comedian, for example. Variety is the spice of life, they say, and the world is richer for it.

Some people like, and are even turned on by, body art, for instance. And, while that may not be my cup of tea, it does not mean I would have any less time for anyone with a scorpion inked on their back or some obscure Hebrew inscription on their arm.

Employers take note. I'm sure many job opportunities go begging because a candidate does not look the part, or has gaping holes in their ear lobes. It doesn't necessarily mean they cannot do the jobs.

Don't be intimidated or put off by these people, they are human beings after all. Oh, and they have feelings too.

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We can all do something about rubbish

I'VE never contacted papers or the media before and yes the NHS, Brexit, and the economy are all massive issues. Sadly as mere individuals, there is little we can do to influence what will be.

However, something we can all take accountability over and actually achieve something is litter!

We in the Black Country are blessed with some stunning countryside and it is so noticeable the amount of rubbish either tossed out of vehicle windows or bins that are left to build up and up and the over spill is left to degenerate.

Neither I or my kid was ever brought up to toss rubbish out of the window, but to take it home and dispose of it.

People enjoy a stroll over Cleat only to leave the waste neatly tied up in a bag for others.

Surely a little publicity would help and local fast food chains (in particular McDonald's) should take some responsibility for educating customers about keeping Britain tidy!

On a tangent, council tips are so regimented and post code allocated. Surely if you are disposing of rubbish in a council designated refuge tip,

what's the issue? Granted you would think you will use the closest one? In my case Romsley, yet we are allocated to Stourbridge, double the distance.

We go to Stourbridge but there are some who once turned away, head for the nearest bit of green belt and deposit their rubbish. Lapal Lane being a prime site.

Let's take responsibility and dispose of our rubbish. We might be doing our best to become a third world country but rubbish disposal is in our hands.

MR C WITHERS
Halesowen

Tax rich to solve crisis in the NHS

JEREMY Hunt continues to whinge on about a lack of social care facilities and an ageing population, but successive Governments have been aware of the demographics for decades.

The NHS was formed from nothing to become the largest employer in the country by introducing National Insurance and increasing income taxes.

Since their election in 2010 this Government has not only reduced taxes and NI contributions, but have also used our public services as a means to repay a huge deficit caused by global financial institutions, making so-called 'efficiency savings'.

If they had abolished 'tax evasion' practices and increased tax and NI instead to finance the deficit in 2010 we would not be facing the crisis we have today, but that would have forced the wealthy to cough up.

Mr Hunt, your Government is to blame!

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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EU, we want some of our money back

THE European Union fails to protect its members and also fails to compromise – no nations are better off financially.

The Greek nation is in hock up to its olives, open door policy is not working, the so-called elite are desperate to keep us trapped and frightened of the UK leaving. The German people are voicing their concerns about keeping funding the EU, especially when we stop paying into it.

I believe that there needs to be independent auditors because the EU budgets have not been signed off for 20-odd years – we might be due a rebate.

We help to pay for office blocks and other EU buildings, plus the wine cellars. We want some of our investments back. Only pension money for the over-paid civil servants and the unelected bureaucrats need to be paid.

MR R GOODALL
Wordsley

Message for Blair: Shut up!

I WOULD like to thank Tony Blair, if I had any doubts about the way I voted (and I don't), Mr Blair just confirmed I was right.

Now here's a man who can be trusted and his words relied upon (not).

How dare he speak out about Brexit and ask people to 'rise up'. He lied to this country about weapons, he led us into a war and lives were lost. So anything this person says I hope people do the opposite. The reason he speaks is not for the good of this country but for the good of his own pocket.

Mr Blair please stay where you are wanted – in the wilderness. You had your chance and blew it, at great cost to hundreds of families and the people of this country. The things you did we are still living with and there are no signs of it getting better.

Thanks, and in the words of a Black Country lad, 'keep ya trap shut'.

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Clever quiz holds the attention

Grange (E) TG

CHRIS Holton presided over the February 7 meeting at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge.

She welcomed 26 members and two guests. Chris read the minutes of the last meeting which were approved and signed.

Treasurer Jill Attwood gave a breakdown of income and expenditure for the previous month. Secretary Jean Williams informed members that boards were going around regarding this month's meeting which is to be the AGM would include a fish and chip supper.

A board was put round regarding a proposed outing to Stratford with a river cruise and afternoon tea.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by guild member Jacqueline Hill. She held everyone's interest with a very clever quiz.

A small prize was given to everyone taking part. Jacqueline was thanked by Chris Holton for all her hard work which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Refreshments were then served by committee members and their helpers and the raffle was drawn with three lucky ladies winning prizes.

The next meeting, the AGM, will be held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on March 7.

The guild is still recruiting new members and any interested ladies can come along as a guest and will be made very welcome. Contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439 for further information.

Acrobatic Bob is in pole position for talk



Mary Jones, Pauline Handley; Jill Buchan and Sandra Chappell.

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

AT the February meeting chairman Mary Jones was pleased to welcome visitor Jeanette Gaunt and 30 members for a three-course lunch, the Annual General Meeting and to hear speaker Bob Broadfield about his early life as an acrobat in the circus and variety.

The AGM gave Mary the opportunity to thank the committee, president Brenda Adkin and members for their support and generosity in 2016. Mary was delighted to welcome volunteer Jill Buchan on to the committee. She felt that after six years in the chair it was time for her to stand down but was willing to remain on the admin committee to help in any way required. On

behalf of all members Ann Rogers paid her a warm tribute and presented her with a gift of silver earrings. Pauline Handley and Ann Rogers were appointed co-chairmen and other officers were re-appointed as previous year.

The speaker, now 88, finished by balancing on a pole which had everyone on the edge of their seats ready to catch him.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 12.30pm, the next on March 10 with the Ukulele Band entertaining.

You can't abdicate and eat it

YOU can't abdicate and eat it is the title of the next talk at Sedgley Local History Society.

The meeting is next Thursday, March 9, at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley.

The speaker is Mary Bodfish, a favourite with local history groups and chair-

Sedgley Local History Society

man of Smethwick Local History Society. Mary's illustrated talk explores the Wallis Simpson and Prince of Wales' love affair and subsequent consequences.

Locally, Himley Hall features in this spicy tale which leads to the constitutional

crisis in 1936. The British Monarchy never fails to surprise.

Several kings have been forced off the throne, only Edward VIII left voluntarily, making it one of the most remarkable Royal events of the 20th century.

As usual visitors are invited to come along - cost £1.

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For more information and to apply please contact the Leap over 50 project, Age UK Dudley, Head office, 3 Dudley Court North, The Waterfront, Level Street, Brierley Hill DY5 1XP on 01384 343535 or email; leapover50@ageukdudley.org.uk

Prison is now plagued by drugs and violence

VIOLENCE and drug problems have spiralled at Featherstone Prison because of staff shortages and 'significant prisoner unrest', according to a damning report released on Tuesday.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales (HMI Prisons) described relationships between staff and inmates as poor and said it was 'perhaps no surprise' the facility had declined 'so quickly and so sharply'.

In a 2013 report the prison was described as a 'very positive establishment'.

But, according to chief Inspector of prisons, Peter Clarke, the current senior leadership team does not have 'sufficient knowledge or oversight of some key areas', including use of force and the unregulated segregation of inmates self-isolating.

Mr Clarke said the only way for the prison to improve is for the leadership team to 'get to grips with the serious issues' identified in today's report.

Intelligence

The report, prepared after an inspection at the end of last year, said the prison had 'well-managed and analysed' intelligence that highlighted problems with drugs, violence and mobile phones, but that insufficient action was being taken to address the problems.

In regards to former 'legal highs', inspectors said the prison was not monitoring the 'full extent' of the problem and 'did not have a strategy or action plan to reduce drug availability' in general.

Inspectors also raised serious concerns around the living conditions of inmates.

They found that the segregation



HMP Featherstone – damning report released on the prison's sharp decline

unit had been damaged last summer and was still not usable, while the temporary segregation unit was in a 'very poor condition' and not properly staffed.

In the temporary unit, about half of the designated cells were out of use due to damage, and had been for 'a considerable time'.

The whole prison was found to be in a 'poor state of repair'. This was reflected in the 'disgraceful condition' of showers and the state of the cells, which were described as 'dirty, poorly

ventilated, covered in graffiti and in need of decoration'.

Mr Clarke has now made recommendations to Featherstone bosses in order to improve its performance.

These include: Analysing all violent incidents and taking coordinated action; taking appropriate safeguarding action for those inmates self-isolating; monitoring the full extent of drug availability and putting an action plan in place to reduce the supply; and fully refurbishing showers and maintaining cells to an acceptable standard.

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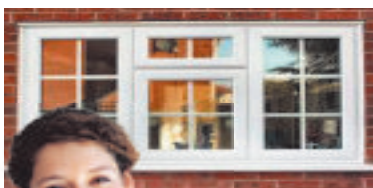
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Clearing the way for new business at industrial hub

WORK is gathering pace on a multi-million pound development aimed at boosting business in the Black Country.

The ground is being cleared at the Pensnett Estate ready for four industrial units to spring up.

The units will cover 130,000 sq ft and are being built at London and Cambridge Property's (LCP) flagship estate at Kingswinford.

The development, called Prime Point, is being backed by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, the joint body of business leaders and council chiefs tasked with encouraging new business and jobs in the area.

Once completed, towards the end of this year, companies will be invited to move onto the estate.

The foundations are currently being laid at the huge business park, which is already home to 160 firms, with building work due to progress over the coming weeks.

Andrew Preston, LCP industrial portfolio manager, said: "Void levels on the estate are low and we are receiving enquiries every week from companies looking for units in this size range, so we believe that this first phase will be very popular with businesses looking to relocate to the area."

"This is a significant investment for LCP that will be a real boost for the local economy."

"We are excited that the first phase is under way and look forward to welcoming new tenants to the Pensnett Estate."

The estate is one of the largest business hubs in Europe covering 185 acres and home to almost 200 companies



The area of the Pensnett Estate where four major new units are in the process of being constructed

Roadshow for energy and telecom complaints

FED-UP residents will be given their chance to get complaints about energy and telecoms companies off their chests.

An ombudsman roadshow will visit the Black Country over two days to try and help hold companies to account.

The event will run at Market Place, Dudley, between 9am and 5pm, on today (Thursday) and tomorrow.

Visitors will be able to register any complaints during the event. Anyone requiring help is asked to bring along necessary documents and any correspondence they have had with the companies.

Ombudsmen help hold companies to account and can help settle disputes.

Lewis Shand Smith, chief ombudsman, said: "It's important that residents in Dudley know their consumer rights and don't put up with bad service. Complaining should be an easy, hassle-free experience."

"If you're still in a dispute with a company after eight weeks, ombudsman services can look into the case for free and provide a resolution."

The roadshow is touring the country.

The most dangerous junctions revealed

THE most dangerous junctions in the Black Country have been revealed.

In Dudley the Cinder Bank Island has seen the most incidents with nine, while the Castle Gate Island has seen eight.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said that plans were in place to improve the Cinder Bank Island.

She added: "The council works closely with police and other partners to identify, fund and carry out vital improvements on roads to maintain safer routes for all."

"In fact we are planning road safety improvements for Cinder Bank this year and are looking at opportunities for improved speed enforcement on Birmingham New Road.

In Wolverhampton, Chapel Ash Island, just outside of the city centre, saw 13 accidents during the same period.

A Wolverhampton council spokesman said: "We regularly monitor accident data and use the information to develop a programme of road safety improvement schemes as part of the Transportation Capital Programme."

Significant

"Over the years this approach has seen a significant reduction in the number of people killed or seriously hurt in Wolverhampton, from 126 in 2004 to 67 last year."

Elsewhere in the Black Country, there has been nine incidents on one junction in Sandwell. The junction between West Bromwich Hight Street and

Crafty pensioners find way to help zoo

A CRAFT group for pensioners in Dudley have been making wooden homes for animals at Dudley Zoo, including bats and penguins.

Senior Citizens Enterprise Woodwork Group, based at Meadow Road Youth Centre, spent six weeks building bird boxes, bird tables, bat boxes and penguin boxes.

Dudley Zoo conservation officer Chris Leeson said: "We're really thankful to the group members, who were all willing to offer their services freely and build the boxes for us. Their talents have saved us hundreds of pounds if we'd have had to buy the boxes ourselves."

Woodwork group chair, William Darby, aged 82, said: "We were glad to be of help and it's lovely when you know they're going to such a good cause."

For more details about the woodwork group contact Mr Darbu on (01384) 620396 or email wdarby@sky.com

By Doug Wootton

A4031 Trinity Way saw eight minor incidents and one serious incident. The roundabout between the A457 Oldbury ringway and the A4034 has seen seven reported incidents.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for highways and environment, Councillor David Hosell, said: "These figures include accidents that are caused by several factors – not just issues relating to the design of a road or the speed of vehicles. We look closely at all incidents and road casualty figures for this reason."

"In Sandwell we have an excellent track record for reducing road injuries."

"We've reduced the total number of casualties on our roads by nearly 50 per cent between 2000 and 2015, and the number of people killed or seriously injured is down 44 per cent."

In South Staffordshire, the Highways England run Gailey Interchange has seen nine minor incidents, as well one serious and one fatal incident.

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11 Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 2, 2017

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£110m makeover for the Merry Hill Centre

MERRY Hill bosses are to spend £110 million on improvements at the shopping centre as they revealed they are near to signing a major name for the former Sainsbury's store.

Intu, which owns 19 UK and Spanish shopping centres including the Trafford Centre and Lakeside, bought the other half of Merry Hill that it did not already own for £410m last June.

Sainsbury's quit the centre at Christmas but Intu asset management director, Julian Wilkinson, says talks are being finalised for a big-name retailer to take the whole of the 32,000 sq ft currently empty unit.

"It is an extremely strong retailer and talks have been going on for a few months," he said.

Intu's plans for Merry Hill involve creating more space to satisfy growing demand from retail chains for bigger stores – 20,000 sq ft to 60,000 sq ft in size – that carry more stock.



Bigger stores and more restaurants

Merry Hill has already seen River Island and JD Sports take up increased space.

Mr Wilkinson said JD Sports' 28,000 sq ft store was now one of its biggest,

while the New Look Men store that opened last year – one of the first in the UK – had also been 'extremely successful'.

Mr Wilkinson said there was 'pent-up' demand from retailers keen to take space at Merry Hill.

The company is hoping to attract more major retail groups that own several big brand names after its success at Manchester's Trafford Centre with a bigger Zara store that saw the fashion shop's owner Inditex introduce its Stradivarius, Pull&Bear and Zara Home stores as well.

Meanwhile, Intu was also aiming to improve and increase the number of food and beverage outlets across the centre.

The property group is also funding improvements to the bus station that serves Merry Hill, with work currently under way.

Reporting its 2016 figures to the City last week the company said: "We believe the centre presents a significant opportunity to re-engineer and update the tenant mix. At Intu Merry Hill we have several projects expected to cost around £110 million to deliver."

3D vision bonus from new technology



Beacon Centre boss Arwyn Jones shows Mavis Southall, aged 83, from Woodsetton, a Virtual Reality headset

SIGHT loss charity The Beacon Centre has been helping its users by introducing them to the wonders of technology.

They could improve their vision using Virtual Reality headsets, according to new research by the Sedgley Centre.

The initial findings from trials by the charity and the University of Wol-

verhampton, has found that for some people with certain sight loss conditions, watching 3D videos can allow them to see more using the headsets than if they were watching on an ordinary screen.

The charity unveiled the findings as part of tech week which showcased some of the latest technology which can make everyday life a little easier.

It also aimed to take away the fear factor some people have about using some of the latest gadgets and equipment and show how they can benefit people on a daily basis.

Arwyn Jones, Beacon Centre chief executive, said: "Some mainstream new technology has unforeseen but huge potential benefits to those living with sight loss and other disabilities."



Don't ignore the warning signs.

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14 Gas station plan at site of pool hall

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 2, 2017

A GAS filling station looks likely to be built on the site of a former snooker hall in Dudley.

Dudley Snooker & Pool Club, in Stafford Street, was gutted by a fire two years ago. It has since been demolished.

Now plans have been lodged with Dudley Council to create a gas filling station at the site.

Three people would be employed at the station, according to planning documents submitted by surveyors BSP Design.

It will be used to supply liquefied petroleum gas to vehicles.

BSP Design expect 15 to 20 cars would use the station each day.

At the site, four gas tanks protected by barriers will be installed.

More than 50 firefighters battled the blaze which gutted the snooker hall.

Middle age mirth at hall

COMEDIENNE Jenny Eclair's latest show will be visiting Dudley Town Hall in May

The 'How to Be a Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane)' tour is at the Dudley venue on May 18. The 56-year-old TV comic has appeared on Grumpy Old Women, Loose Women and Splash!. In 2010 she finished third in I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!

Tickets are £17, call (01384) 812812.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Libraries preparing for new chapter as a 'staff mutual'

PLANS to introduce new ways of working in libraries and archives in Dudley have moved a step closer.

The Dudley Council-run library service, Archives and Local History Centre will enter into a 'staff mutual' - where employees have more control - in the spring.

The authority says that this will give workers greater freedom to introduce new ways to generate income, which they will be able to reinvest into staff training, update facilities and expanding the range of services available.

At the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, on Tipton Road, the mutual will look at ways to maximise the exhibition space and create more events for the public.

The council expects the arrangement to reap financial savings across the board without impacting on day-to-day services.

Transferred

All council staff will be transferred over to the organisation. The council is now carrying out the formal legal work before the final process is complete.

Council leader, Pete Lowe, said: "We value our libraries and archives service in the borough and especially our staff who have

By Lucy Thompson

worked hard to deliver some of the best library services in the country.

"Unlike other authorities that are choosing to close their libraries, we are going down the route of mutualising our services to protect them long term.

"The mutual offers an exciting opportunity to do things differently and I am confident it will achieve the best outcomes for our libraries and archives service users."

Greenwich Leisure was chosen as the preferred partner to bring their expertise to Dudley libraries and archives, running the mutual over the next five years.

The company has been running leisure and library services since 1993, and currently manages libraries in the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Greenwich, and in Lincolnshire.



The endangered yellow-breasted capuchins at Dudley Zoo are getting a new enclosure

Monkey see monkey lots to do at zoo

THE first stage of Dudley Zoo's £295,000 revamp has begun with work underway to create a new home for its critically-endangered yellow-breasted capuchins.

The outdoor area for the capuchins off the Small Primate House is being rebuilt at a cost of £20,000.

Indoor spaces will give extra space as well as a climbing frame and high platforms for the arboreal species, while new glass windows will enhance viewing opportunities for visitors.

Curator Richard Brown, said: "Work is progressing really well. We've kept the capuchins inside while contractors have demolished the old exterior and are building the new enclosure, which will give the species lots of additional space when it's finished.

"The work is all on schedule and is looking fantastic. We hope to have the primates in their new enclosure in the next few weeks."

Museum was a top attraction

DUDLEY'S Museum and Art Gallery has been named as one of the country's best-loved attractions - two months after it closed.

It was controversially closed after more than 100 years to try and save money, despite fierce opposition in the town. It is now likely to be used by the council for conferences, whilst a new museum is to be opened in the Archives Building on Tipton Road.

The museum was named among the top 50 free attractions in the UK by travel firm National Express, alongside the likes of the Lake District and Hadrian's Wall, and declared the best in the Black Country.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, leader of the opposition UKIP group, said: "It was incredibly popular. I think the council will massively regret closing such a wonderful attraction."

Clothes shop in Poundland

A CLOTHES shop has opened inside the Poundland store in Dudley town centre. PEP&CO will offer women's, men's and kids' budget priced fashion.

PEP&CO managing director Adrian Mountford said: "We might be a new brand but we're one that customers love once they find us. By bringing PEP&CO to Poundland in Dudley, we're giving people access to the brand much more rapidly than we could on our own."

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Community role for church house

A CHURCH house which has been empty for decades has undergone a major revamp to become a community centre.

Bosses at the George Road Community Church in Oldbury decided it was time to bring the property back into use and saw it as an opportunity to support community groups looking for a base.

It has stood next to the church since the 1880s and had once been lived in by the church caretaker but has been empty for years. The house has been given a makeover and now includes activity areas, meeting rooms, an office and disabled toilets.

The centre was officially opened by Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Julie Webb. Church leader June Whitehouse said: "Nobody had lived in it for decades and it was falling into disrepair. The refurbishment was a £34,200 project. We are already seeing lots of interest from the community."

The project recieved funding from Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust.

Plans steam ahead for SVR Spring gala



Locomotive No.7812 Erlestoke Manor at SVR Steam Gala

A FESTIVAL of locomotives will mark the start of the Severn Valley Railway's steam season.

The railway will hold its annual Spring Steam Gala from March 17 to 19 and it will feature a top line-up of visiting locomotives, supported by members of the SVR home fleet.

Among the star locos visiting this year is LMS Ivatt 2 No. 41312, which is making its first visit to the Severn Valley track in 16 years. Also on the way is SR Battle of Britain No. 34081 92 Squadron and BR Standard 9F No. 92214, one of the most powerful locomotives in Britain.

The fantastic selection of visiting locomotives will be supported by members of the SVR's home fleet, including No. 813, No. 1450, No. 1501, No. 2857, No. 7714, No. 7802 Bradley Manor, No. 7812 Erlestoke Manor, No. 34027 Taw Valley, No. 34053 Sir Keith Park and No. 43106.

Visitors can take steam train and brake van rides, get on board evening services and visit the beer tent at Bewdley.

They will also be able to enjoy three new exhibitions at The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley.

Visit www.svr.co.uk or call 01562 757900.

Police summit on how to tackle gangs

SPECIALIST police officers from around the country met in the West Midlands to discuss how to tackle gangs and violence on the region's streets.

The event hosted by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) David Jamieson was held at Aston University. It's purpose was to inform delegates of the work so far by the PCC's commission on gangs and violence, as well as sharing best practice from around the country and assessing the impact of gang culture in the West Midlands.

Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner Ashley Bertie, who chaired the event, said: "This was a hugely successful event that took an in-depth look into the complicated issues surrounding street gangs.

"It explored key issues, such as how we can build stronger community links, developing a multi-agency action plan."

Also attending were youth workers, community groups and practitioners. In total, more than 100 people took part.

Surgeon is struck off after sending love letter to patient

A SURGEON who wrote a love letter to a female patient has been struck off.

Dr Sachiendra Amaragiri, 59, carried out a colonoscopy on the patient at Russells Hall Hospital.

Three months later, the doctor from Consett in County Durham, wrote a letter expressing his feelings to her.

The patient reported it to the police and, following a Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service hearing, Mr Amaragiri's name was removed from the medical register.

In a letter read out at the hearing Mr Amaragiri wrote: "When you stepped

into my clinic for the first time, I was suddenly stunned and taken aback by your presence. You induced this unusually extraordinary tender feelings of weakness in my emotional setting. To this day I have been unable to fathom this power you hold on me."

The tribunal was told the incident occurred after the woman, known as Patient A, was admitted to the hospital in July 2015 with stomach issues. She was referred to Dr Amaragiri and in September underwent the procedure. Amaragiri, who was not at the hearing, described his letter to her as a 'moment of madness' and expressed 'sincere regret'.

He wrote to the General Medical Council saying: "I never had or have any intention of causing any hurt in any manner. I did invite her for a social drink and I acknowledge this was a mistake. I reassure you I've not taken advantage of my position as Patient A's surgeon."

The tribunal stated: "Dr Amaragiri's failure to comply with the relevant professional standards was serious and his conduct brought the profession into disrepute. The tribunal accepts this was an isolated incident. However, doctors practising medicine are required to respect the dignity and privacy of patients."



Dr Sachiendra Amaragiri

Survey launch on hate crime

A SURVEY aimed at tackling hate crime has been launched by West Midlands Police, backed by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson in partnership with the University of Leicester.

The aims of the project includes identifying the support needs of victims, identifying victims' experiences of support services and identifying ways of improving existing support services.

Findings and recommendations from the survey and research will then be used to help improve support provision in the West Midlands and inform the commissioning of support services for those affected by hate crime.

Last week, new figures showed instances of hate crime had risen by more than a quarter in the West Midlands since the European Union referendum.

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Racketball skills for beginners

THOSE looking to improve their racketball skills are invited to take part in a new course in Stourbridge.

Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, based on Sugar Loaf Lane, Stourbridge, is holding a five-week beginners' racketball course from today (Thursday).

As part of the course, the club will run sessions on Thursdays from 10am till 11am or on Saturdays from 1pm till 2pm.

New members receive a free racket when they sign up and there are free crèche facilities available on Thursdays.

The course costs £35 for the full five weeks.

The club offers 14 all-weather tennis courts (including 12 floodlit courts), six squash courts, a state-of-the-art gym, clubhouse including bar, which is open every day and evening, together with changing facilities and a sauna. For more information call (01384) 393613.

Doreens give market thumbs up



Doreen Tipton meets another Doreen, market cleaner Doreen Jeavons, of Brierley Hill

THE queen of the Black Country swept into Brierley Hill to reassure residents that its beloved market was not closing down but only changing hands.

Rumours about the historic market hall grew after it was announced it had been sold in a £1 million deal. But the popular shopping venue is still mostly owned by the Shapeero family who started it 90 years ago and now further investment is on the way.

Doreen Tipton spent three hours chatting to stallholders and entertaining shoppers.

Market caretaker Frank Chamberlain said: "There were a lot of laughs. She sat on one stallholder's lap and got behind the counter at the dog food stall. She was even selling underwear at one counter and was dancing with stallholders."

Concerns among traders about what the

Project gives children flying start at school

FAMILIES are celebrating after completing a pre-school literacy course in Rowley Regis.

Cornerstone pre-school, which is based at the Flame Community Church, Cardale Street, organised activities designed to improve children's literacy skills and get them ready to start school.

The pre-school is one of 10 organisations across Sandwell to receive a £500 council grant, along with specialist training for its staff to help them deliver the special sessions.

The raising early achievement in literacy project was piloted in Sandwell in 2013 with funding and training from the National Children's Bureau. It is part of a Department for Education drive to improve the skills of two to five-year-olds.

Sandwell Council has promised to continue to fund the initiative, which chiefs say has proved a success with all children showing a marked improvement.

Builder is fined after failing to finish rendering job on house

A ROGUE builder who took nearly £5,000 from a Brierley Hill man for rendering work but failed to finish the job, has been handed a court bill of almost £4,000.

Adrian Jones, of Pensnett, pocketed £4,740 but left the side and rear of the victim's home unfinished.

Jones had started work in June 2015 and then requested more payments, with five totalling to £4,740.

The 35-year-old, from Chapel Street, promised to complete the job before the end of July 2015 but only finished the front of the house, which was left with the old rendering removed

from the side and rear and scaffolding in place. He admitted to failing to notify the consumer of statutory cancellation rights and two counts of failing to exercise professional diligence by failing to complete the work and failing to return the money to the householder.

Deposit

Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard on February 9 that Jones had quoted £5,000 to externally render the house and initially took a £500 deposit.

Jones promised the resident on numerous occasions he would return to complete the job, but didn't and failed to provide a refund.

The court imposed a 12 month conditional dis-

charge on Jones and ordered him to pay £2,500 compensation to the householder and £1,491 costs to Dudley Council. Jones apologised.

Councillor Rachel Harris, responsible for trading standards, said afterwards: "This prosecution sends out a clear message that we will protect consumers from the activity of rogue traders who flout the law and carry out sub-standard work. This kind of activity causes a huge amount of distress to the victims who have worked hard and saved to pay for improvements to their home."

Dudley Trading Standards, with Age UK Dudley, offers the Fix a Home list of approved traders, online at www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/trading-standards/fix-a-home/

Half-price offer on compost bin

BOROUGH residents in Dudley can be ultra-efficient with their composting if they take up the opportunity to buy a special bin at a specially discounted price.

The innovative Green Johanna 'Hot Composters' are normally £119, but Dudley Council has 110 units available for borough residents to buy at a discounted rate of £54, including delivery.

The pioneering system gives an opportunity to re-use both food and garden waste, turning it into compost in six months. It also uses a patented aeration system and thicker wall sections to ensure temperatures remain consistently high and is designed to protect against vermin.

To find out more or to purchase the system for the discounted price of £54, visit www.recyclefordudley.org.uk/food-waste.html

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18 The big re-✓-veal at last!

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 2, 2017

THE long-awaited announcement of the line-up for this year's V Festival was revealed this week – with P!nk and Jay Z the surprise big headliners.

Rumours had been rife for weeks ahead of the announcement with the smart money seemingly on Ed Sheeran as the likely big draw, writes Diane Davies.

Meanwhile Drake, Kaiser Chiefs, Mumford and Sons and Mary J Blige had also been touted as possible headliners by the music press.

Both Jay Z and P!nk have been fairly low profile in recent years musically. Raunchy American singer P!nk has not had a solo album out since 2012 and not toured since 2013/14.

It is 10 years since P!nk made her debut V appearance. Festival promoters say the 'pop icon' will be entertaining the crowd with her elaborate stagecraft and choreography.

Teens

With more than 100 million records sold and a 20-year career, Jay Z is one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Although the US rapper is almost better known as Mr Beyonce for young music fans having not had a solo album out for almost four years. The 47-year-old has not toured since 2013/14.

He and wife Beyonce recently announced that she is pregnant with twins but have not revealed her due date – though it is rumoured to be around the beginning of August.

The V Festival takes place at Weston Park in Staffordshire and Hylands Park, Chelmsford, on August 19 and 20.

Having gained a reputation in recent years as a festival focusing on the 'teen scene', last year's headliners were Justin Bieber and Rihanna, there are a number of acts which will satisfy the usual crowd.

'Godfather of garage' Craig David, Jason Derulo, Jess Glynne, local lads The Vamps, Sean Paul, Dizzee Rascal, Clean Bandit, James Arthur and rising sensation



Rapper Jay Z who will be headlining this year's V Festival



Pink performs at Birmingham's LG Arena on her last tour

Stormzy have all been announced this week. Ellie Goulding will be making her fifth V appearance and there is a return for Rudimental.

Scouting for Girls and Busted tick the 'guitar band' box while Madness always provide a lively show and will appease the more mature members of the crowd.

Pete Tong was the first name released by the organisers, last Friday, as a sneak tease to the big reveal this week. Tong is one of the most successful

electronic dance DJs worldwide and will be creating the sound of summer to both sites with his Ibiza Classics orchestra show.

Tickets for V go on general sale at 9am on Friday. A weekend ticket will cost £175 plus fees.

As well as day and weekend tickets there are camping tickets – including VIP and 'glamping' options.

A 'pod pad' sleeping two people costs £1,366 while an Airstream Prince Trailer for five will set visitors back

£6,500. This does include access to the VIP area though.

Around 70,000 attended last year's V Festival. Headliner Justin Bieber found himself making all the wrong headlines over the weekend with claims that he was miming and had been out partying to the early hours.

● **What do you think of the line-up.** Email us at wolverhampton.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk or write to Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



The Vamps, with singer Brad Simpson from Sutton Coldfield, will play V



Making her fifth V Festival appearance will be Ellie Goulding

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Vandalised bridge is as good as new again



Railings replaced – Councillor Keiran Casey, centre, with the trust's Don Davies and Harry Brookes

NEW railings have been installed to improve safety on a bridge after vandals ripped the old ones down.

The Rosemary Crescent footbridge, Dudley, was only opened 18 months ago but its railings were torn down in November.

The Woodseton Charitable Trust (WCT) received £22,000 to have the bridge built. Upper Gornal and Woodseton ward councillors Keiran Casey and Adam Aston were shocked after the rails were vandalised and backed the drive to have the bridge repaired.

Harry Brookes, chairman of the Woodseton Charitable Trust, said: "It's great that we have the support from our local councillors. Their help has been much appreciated."

"The bridge was a project which WCT had worked on for some time. We wanted to improve local footpaths and the walkways which residents and children use."

Shocked

Councillor Casey said: "When the trust got in touch with me, I was shocked to hear about the mindless damage which had been done. I contacted the council straight away to find

out what could be done to retrieve the broken railings which had been ripped out and thrown in the brook and to install new barriers to ensure this was safe for residents and school children.

"New railings have now been installed on the bridge and myself and Councillor Aston are very happy that we have been able to help. The trust is a fantastic group of local people who have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for our area."

The trust has worked to preserve and enhance the landscape in Dudley borough since it was formed in 2007. It was given £22,000 for the bridge project by environmental company Veolia.

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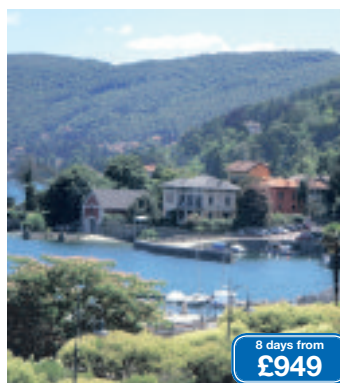
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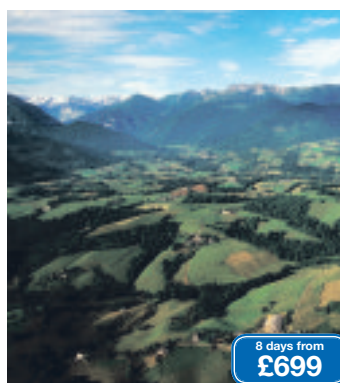
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Goodness Nose how they raise so much



Staff and students at Q3 Academy Langley will be making their laughs matter for Red Nose Day

AN Oldbury school is gearing up for its traditional Red Nose Day fundraiser.

Q3 Academy Langley will host a table football competition, sponsored silence and bake sale for this year's event on March 24.

Last time around, the schoolchildren, staff and teachers of the West Midlands raised more than £650,000, which

was put to work helping vulnerable people in the area, all over the UK and across Africa.

Q3 Academy played its part by organising a bake sale and by wearing silly jumpers, raising more than £1,100 to help to fund projects like Sandwell African Women's Association which provides a safe place for African refugees affected by war and violence.

Bravery medal rethink call

WARLEY MP John Spellar has called on the Government to 'think again' after bomb disposal officers in Northern Ireland were denied a medal for bravery.

Mr Spellar, a former Minister of State for Northern Ireland, is among a group of Labour MPs campaigning for a review after the Cabinet Office rejected a move to award Ammunition

Technical Officers based in the province a General Service Medal.

The request by Northern Ireland's most senior Army officer, Brigadier Andrew Rowe, was thrown out over fears it would mean admitting a full military operation is ongoing in Ulster.

Mr Spellar said: "These bomb squads put their lives on the line every week and their contribution deserves recognition. The MoD should think again." He was among a number of signatories

to a letter to the Defence Minister that was written by Tom Blenkinsop, chairman of Labour's backbench committee on Northern Ireland.

Mr Blenkinsop said: "The support Ammunition Technicians in Northern Ireland provide the Police Service of Northern Ireland in tackling bomb threats to civilians is vital. They carry out this work with a professionalism and bravery that deserves to be recognised."

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WHILE STOCKS LAST

No riots, just Ricky in pink ripping it up

**Kaiser Chiefs
Barclaycard Arena
Review by Diane Davies**

ONCE they were the Angry Mob, a riot predicted in every headline. Everything else seemed average and they loved us less and less every day.

But there were no angry young men in sight as Kaiser Chiefs hit the stage at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena in a scene reminiscent of Phoenix Nights.

With the glitter balls, sparkling ribbon backdrop and K C balloons all that was missing was Peter Kay. But these are the Kaiser Chiefs, this is their arena tour and no-one knows how to put on a show better than frontman Ricky Wilson – he does not do 'relaxed'.

It is 100 per cent energy from Ricky the moment the band hit the stage and after the first number the 'social club scene' makes way for the big Kaiser Chiefs show. A huge neon K and a C lit up the stage with a backdrop of large electronic screens, while smoke belled out amid an impressive lights show.

Album

They opened with We Stay Together, one of the better tracks from the fairly tepid new album, their sixth, Stay Together.

But the heat was quickly turned up as they then ripped into the favourite Everything is Average Nowadays. Personally, I thought the last album Education, Education, Education and War was their best work for years and arguably at least as good as Employment which provided the 'classic' hits. Stay Together is a 'nice' album, it certainly shows their versatility but is far less edgy. However, the one thing you can guarantee from the Kaiser Chiefs is an irresistibly catchy tune and usually a snappy chorus. Singles Parachute and Hole in My Soul are perfect examples of these and fitted in perfectly with the energy of the show, keeping the crowd bouncing and singing away merrily.



In the pink – Ricky Wilson on stage at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham

A Kaiser Chiefs gig is one great sing-along. The whole set was peppered throughout with hits including Everyday I Love You Less and Less, Ruby, Modern Way, Never Miss a Beat, The Angry Mob, I Predict a Riot and Coming Home.

The encore saw a gutsy rendition of

Ever Fallen in Love by the Buzzcocks and, of course, the obligatory Oh My God.

Having gone down a storm at the Forest Live gigs in summer on Cannon Chase, Kaiser Chiefs are rumoured to be one of the headline acts at this year's V Festival. Let's hope so.

Just 8 out of 10 as it was short on laughs

**Sean Lock,
Birmingham Hippodrome**
WITH his shaven head, the comic could have been re-named Shorn Locks. Complete with facial hair, it was an almost unrecognisable Eight out of Ten Cats favourite that took to the stage at the Hippodrome.

Until he spoke, that is. Then there was no mistaking that cheeky, straight-talking persona.

Cynical as ever, Lock was immediately in the flow, with tales of job prospects and exams: "There's a gas fire at home with more certificates than me."

He got off to a flyer, keeping the laughs coming for a good while, including one about his 83-year-old father learning to speak Chinese.

"I hope so anyway, because we only got him a one-way ticket."

But then it just seemed to peter out. Whether it was the material, or just the delivery, he was, unfortunately unable to keep the momentum going and the laughs dried up.

There were some gems in there, his description of Alan Sugar's face as 'like a toffee apple rolled across a barber's shop floor' for example, and a brilliant frolicking lamb impression.

But, after support act Paul McCaffrey had suitably warmed the audience up, it was overall a hit and miss affair after a particular solid start.

He was right about the price of cinema food, though.

Mark Shipp



Deloris (Alexandra Burke) is not happy at the thought of hiding away in a convent

Hallelujah, there's nun more wicked than this

Sister Act

Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

CALL me a sinner if you wish but I found this musical wickedly funny. And Strictly speaking any production which carries the stamp of Craig Revel Horwood on it – after all he is absolutely FAB-U-LOUS darling – has to be on a winner.

Revel Horwood is the director and choreographer of Sister Act, which runs at the Grand until Saturday. The story revolves around Deloris Van Cartier, the sassy singer who witnesses a gangland murder and is placed out of harm's way in a convent.

Disguised as a nun, and under the suspicious watch of Mother Superior, played superbly by Karen Mann, Deloris helps her fellow sisters find their voices and finds she actually enjoys the friendship, sisterhood and music at the convent.

Deloris is played by previous X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, and Hallelujah she still has it in bucketfuls after a successful run in the Bodyguard. She belted out those songs, combining her powerful voices

THEATRE REVIEWS

with accomplished acting skills. She did take a little time to get warmed up in the role of Van Cartier but once she was in full stride it was hard not to take to her.

Aaron Lee Lambert brings a 70s soul-induced vibe to the role of gangster boss Curtis and Joe Vetch is superb as 'Sweaty Eddie' the lovable cop who has a massive crush on Deloris.

The plot is, of course, ludicrous. While in the convent Deloris takes over the dull choir rehearsals and turns the tone-deaf nuns into disco sensations. In doing so she sends the dwindling church attendance through the roof.

Most of the cast double up as members of the band, so welcome to the world of saxophone-toting nuns. All very surreal of course but thoroughly enjoyable.

Sue Attwater

The Ticket

23
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Robbie's a pal but I still see old mates

He's so God Damned nice. Talking to Olly Murs is like talking to the ultimate cheeky chap. There's no edge and nothing unpleasant.

He's as unlikely to throw a strop as Mother Teresa, he's as unlikely to be caught with his pants down as the local lollipop lady. He's the antithesis of Kanye and Kardashian, the polar opposite of Katie Hopkins. He's as unlikely to demand a jar full of purple Smarties on his backstage rider as a lion is to marry a dolphin.

Good God, Olly, stop being so flippin' nice. And yet that's what the public admires about him. While so many who are thrust into the spotlight are dysfunctional and difficult, Olly is precisely the opposite. He is the archetypal boy-who-done-well, the classic boy next door who made it big.

Olly was working as a recruitment consultant at Prime Appointments, in Witham, before he featured on The X Factor. And he's still in touch with his old officemates now. The closest he'd come to stardom was appearing on Deal or No Deal in 2007. He wasn't much cop, taking home a tenner after messing up royally.

Like many kids, he'd dreamed of hitting the big time. But after forming a band, The Small Town Beggars, that got nowhere fast, he pretty much gave up. And so, after his Deal or No Deal experience, he jacked it all in and went backpacking around Australia. Then, when he returned, he decided to have one last crack at fame. He rolled the dice in 2009 and is landed on X.

LUCK

"X Factor got me started, but I think for me it's just about hard work. I respect people and I'm nice to people and I've also had a bit of luck. People like my music and have bought into me so I try to give people a different sound and a different vibe. It's just been a great journey. I've been very lucky. I hate to say luck because we all know it isn't all luck. You've got to have a bit of talent."

Olly was the runner-up on the sixth series of The X Factor in 2009. His debut single, Please Don't Let Me Go, debuted at number one while his debut album was certified double platinum after shifting more than 600,000 copies. And since then, it's been one-way traffic. Olly has been moving higher and higher and higher as he's shipped a colossal 10 million records, published an autobiography called Happy Days and released three further albums which have all gone to number one and achieved between two and four platinum discs for sales that have hovered around one-million-per-record. The only thing he hasn't done is fill his mantelpiece with awards. Olly has been nominated for six Brits and two Ivor Novellos, but always been pipped. Still, there's still time to put that right, especially with the release of his fifth album, 24 hrs.

"I think it's the best thing I've done, yes. It's certainly my best songwriting. I wrote it with some great writers and as a body of work it's the best thing I've come up with. Right now, I'm just looking forward to the fans listening to it."

"When you've done four albums, it's like what am I going to do for my fifth? Where do I go? So what I've always done in my career is try to move forward."

The new album will be accompanied by another megaton tour. Having stayed on the road from March to August with his last set of arena shows, for Never Been Better, which included three dates at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena, Olly is back for more. This time he'll be playing the city's Genting. At

Olly loves the high life but he's Mur likely to be found in Essex



present, he's scheduled just the one date, for March 24, but don't bet against him returning for more.

"I'm looking forward to it," he says. "To do these sort of venues is fantastic and I never get bored of it. I always hope that one day I'll move up and play stadiums. That's certainly on my bucket list."

He's learned from the best in the business. Olly was part of One Direction's Up All Night Tour in 2012, when he joined the boys in the USA. And he was also the special guest for Robbie Williams' Take The Crown Tour, in 2013, which earned \$20 million from nine shows and included four sell-out gigs at Wembley and the same number at Manchester's Etihad Stadium.

"Working with people like Robbie Williams and Gary Barlow has been great. It's always good to work with people like that and get close, to see those guys going about their work. I'm grateful to them for giving me the opportunity to play on their tours."

"Hopefully one day there'll be a young singer on one of my tours and I'll try to guide them and give them advice and help"

Not that Olly takes his success for granted. In the fickle world of pop, he knows that what goes up must come down. Though a crash is more unlikely that a bad dinner from Gordon Ramsay, he knows it might not last forever.

"I'm not a fool. I know that at some point it'll all be gone. But then it might not – who knows it might go on for the rest of my life. I'll continue for as long as my fans in the UK want me to. If I move into other careers, like TV or radio, that would be cool. You

You've got to tick all the boxes really if you want to get somewhere

don't know, the opportunities are endless."

For a cheeky happy like Olly, they probably are. He's the sort of entertainer who'll still be around in 20 years.

The Nice theme continues when he's not on pop star duty. Away from the stage, he's a right regular philanthropist who supports his local Brainwave charity, which is based in his home town and helps kids with cerebral palsy.

"Giving back is massively important to me. When you're in the position I'm in where your profile can really elevate some charities then you can use that to raise money and help families and kids in need. I'm in the position to do that and I love helping. I love doing that. The charities that I'm involved in are all important to me."

With enough in the bank to live comfortably, Olly could slow down. He could swan off to some exotic isle and sip vodka, lychee juice and vermouth or mango daiquiris. Not that he does. When he's off duty, you're more likely to find him knocking about in Essex, where he still hangs out with his old mates. Olly may have Robbie Williams' number on speed dial, but he's just as likely to text his mates, Colin and Robbie, instead.

"I'm always at home in Essex. I'm always visiting my old employees, especially an agency I used to work for, Prime Appointments."

● Olly is performing at The Genting Arena, Birmingham on Thursday, March 23, Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25. Tickets cost from £33.99. Visit www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 33 88 222.

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Annette – no stranger to city



Billy reaches new heights



Annette is loving boinging back – to star in Billy Elliot

It'll be like a home from home when Annette McLaughlin lands in Birmingham to star in a six-week run of Billy Elliot.

The actress and comedian once spent every other weekend near the city, commuting from London with her then-boyfriend, Frank Skinner, to watch the Albion. Boing Boing, does that make her a Born Again Baggie. "Oh God, no. I was just a very, very good girlfriend."

Instead of the blue-and-white-stripes, her abiding memory is of the half time pies.

The West End star, who plays Mrs Wilkinson in Billy Elliot, the role made famous in the movie by Julie Walters, worked with

Skinner on TV's The Frank Skinner Show.

"Frank was my boyfriend and I used to go and watch West Brom with him," she says. "I enjoy football because I had three brothers and used to enjoy playing it as a kid. I used to go every Saturday with Frank and I loved it. I loved the pies most of all, that was my favourite thing. The gravy used to drip down my hands. They were delicious."

"We only used to go up for the weekend but it was great because he was such a massive fan of West Brom and was so proud of his heritage."

Heritage is a dominant theme in Billy Elliot. It celebrates life in a northern mining town. Set against the background of the 1980s miners' strike it follows Billy's journey from

boxing to ballet class, where he discovers a passion for dance that changes his life forever.

Sharing the role of Billy are Adam Abbou, Matthew Lyons, Haydn May and local boy Lewis Smallman, from West Bromwich. McLaughlin has been with the show for a year and describes it as a winner.

"Having seen it when it first opened in the West End, I just wanted to be a part of it. It's an incredible show and I wanted to play that part," she says. "When it came round it was an easy decision to make. I've been doing the show for almost a year on tour and I love every second."

The show runs at Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday until April 29

It's Bach to Hendrix at Kennedy special

World-renowned violinist Nigel Kennedy will make a triumphant return to his adopted home city of Birmingham with a gala celebration show at Symphony Hall.

The maverick Aston Villa-loving violinist will combine his greatest successes and new works for this one-off performance on Saturday, March 11.

Kennedy will perform a wide-ranging repertoire from Bach to Hendrix, world music to jazz, accompanied by a host of special guests including Bulgarian composer and virtuoso on the gadulka (stringed folk instrument) Georgi Andreev and world-class violinists Jean-Luc Ponty, Michael Guttman and Pieter Daniel.

Kennedy's unique talent and extraordinary ability to communicate with audiences have

made him one of the world's most popular performers.

Jean-Luc Ponty is a master of the violin in the arena of jazz and rock. He is widely regarded as an innovator.

Despite their different musical backgrounds, Kennedy and Ponty had the same mentor – Stéphane Grappelli, who saw in them the renewal of the violin. The encounter between these two exceptional artists promises to be powerfully creative. It will range from the acoustic to the electronic and with a repertoire drawn from the last three centuries.

Georgi Andreev is a virtuoso of the gadulka, a traditional Bulgarian bowstring instrument. Michael Guttman is an eminent violin soloist, conductor and music director of festivals around the world.

At the age of 10 he became the youngest student ever to be admitted into the

Brussels Royal Academy of Music and went on to study at the Juilliard School in New York with Nigel.

Another of Nigel's friends from Juilliard, Pieter Daniel, who made his orchestra debut at the age of 12, will also perform.

"This is shaping up to be an amazing concert," says Nigel. "Jean-Luc Ponty, is a genius. He is one of the greatest in jazz, ever. He is an innovator with a unique visionary spin. He plays on the harmonies, just kills. Then we've got Georgi over from Bulgaria too, it'll be special."

"And, of course my good friends from Juilliard, Michael and Pieter, will be joining me too. I'll have a strong relationship with everyone on that stage."

Ticket prices range from £25.50 to £68 for the 7.30pm gala concert. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.



Ladies – the times they are a-changin'

Menopause The Musical, an all-singing all-dancing comedy is on its way

The show about ladies of a certain age will unite one of Britain's best known singing sisters with three familiar faces from TV drama.

Maureen Nolan will join Cheryl Fergison (pictured) who played Heather Trott in EastEnders with sometime member of the Loose Women panel Rebecca Wheatley, from TV's Casualty, and Penny Dreadful actress Ruth Berkeley. It is on at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Thursday, March 9.



Gig choice? Listen to what Mama Said . . .

Mama Said and 7 Years outfit Lukas Graham, from Denmark, bring their soul-pop to Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday and the same night Traffic co-founder Dave Mason brings his Traffic Jam to Bilston's Robin 2.

In Digbeth, Leeds indie rockers The Pigeon Detectives play the O2 Institute on Wednesday, with Lucy Spraggan on Thursday and Oxford's Glass Animals on Friday.

Leamington Spa singer-songwriter Joe Dolman (pictured) plays the Sunflower Lounge in Brum on Thursday. Dutch Uncles play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday.



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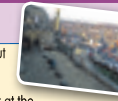
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|------------|--|------|
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| Mon 3 Apr | Flying Scotsman Special | £119 |
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| | | |
|------------|---|------|
| Sat 18 Mar | Legoland Spectacular (b&b) | £99 |
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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

CHOICE



Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief (BBC1, 6.45pm)
New series. Presenter double-team Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are reunited to host the all-star talent show, in which celebrity performers take to the stage to display their musical talents by delivering their interpretations of various pop hits. The contest gets under way with performances by Radio 1 DJ Matt Edmondson, astrologer Russell Grant, comedienne Sara Pascoe, DJ duo Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odom, and Absolutely Fabulous actresses Harriet Thorpe and Helen Lederer - otherwise known as Patsy's long-suffering associates Fleur and Catriona. Only two of the star acts featured each week will be able progress to the Grand Final.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 Mary Berry Everyday.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News; Weather.** **1.15 Bargain Hunt.** **2.15 My Life: The Boy on the Bicycle.** **2.45 Film: Monsters vs Aliens.** (2006) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon. **4.10 Final Score.** **5.10 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **5.40 BBC News.** **5.50 Regional Programme.**
6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adil Ray, Richard Gibson and Victoria Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete. (R)
6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. New series. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present the all-star talent show, in which celebrity performers display their musical talents via interpretations of various pop hits.
8.00 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, with each pair battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds gets to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up.
8.40 Casualty. David spends one last day with Ollie before his aunt takes him back to Spain, while Louise and Dylan try convince the board to help them tackle alcohol abuse.
9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Rory and Dino have a bust-up. Mark and Betty announce they are leaving for Australia right away and a phone call causes the Brown children to suspect one of them may be adopted. (R)
10.00 BBC News; Weather. National Lottery Update.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Hull City at King Power Stadium, and Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield.
11.45 This Country. Kerry becomes a door-to-door saleswoman and Kurtan makes new friends in the village. Mockumentary presenting a very look at the lives of young people living in rural Britain.
12.10 Film: Papadopoulos & Sons. (2012) **1.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **2.00 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.25 Film: North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacal and Kenneth More. **8.30 Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships.** Coverage of the morning session on day two. **10.00 Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon - Natural World.** (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry.** (R) **1.00 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo.** (R) **1.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **2.15 Mastermind.** (R) **3.15 University Challenge.** (R) **3.45 Only Connect.** (R) **4.15 Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships.** Gabby Logan presents coverage of the evening session on day two.
8.15 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton visits the three island outposts of Shetland, Papa Stour, Whalsay and Out Skerries. He encounters newborn lambs and watches a traditional sword dance, before taking a trip on a trawler. He discovers how the islands have developed their own sense of community in the face of declining populations and the challenges of a remote location.
8.45 Dad's Army. Sgt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. Classic comedy, starring John Le Mesurier and Arthur Lowe. (R)
9.15 Live at the Apollo. Adam Hills, host of Channel 4's The Last Leg, is the latest master of ceremonies at London's Hammersmith Apollo. He introduces US comic Michelle Wolf and sharp-witted Jamali Maddix to the stage. (R)
10.00 Martin Scorsese: True Confessions. Nick James interviews Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese on his fascination with themes of masculinity, religion, crime, and life in New York.
10.30 Film: Mean Streets. (1973) A small-time crook's conscience and loyalty to his girlfriend conflict with his desire to rise in the criminal world. Martin Scorsese's drama, with Robert De Niro and Harvey Keitel.
12.20 Taboo. (R) **2.15 Film: Witchfinder General.** (1968) A 17th-century lawyer callously destroys innocent lives while serving as a witchfinder, but meets his match in a vengeful soldier. Horror, starring Vincent Price and Ian Ogilvy. **3.40 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **7.00 Oddbods.** (R) **7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled!** **7.35 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **7.50 Scrambled! Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.10 Scrambled! Teen Titans Go!** **8.30 Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School.** **9.05 Scrambled! Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25 Alphabetical.** (R) **10.20 Guess This House.** (R) **11.20 ITV News; Weather.** **11.25 The Voice UK.** (R) **1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster.** Coverage of today's race meetings at Doncaster and Newbury. **4.00 You've Been Framed!** (R) **4.30 Regional Programme: Weather.** **4.45 ITV News; Weather.** **5.00 Film: Despicable Me 2.** (2013) Animated comedy sequel.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The popular duo's entertainment show continues, as Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda Field join the pair for this year's first I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear. Brendan O'Carroll, otherwise known as Agnes Brown of Mrs Brown's Boys, serves as this week's guest announcer, and Stephen Mulhern takes the boys back through time to Ancient Egypt in another round of Ant Versus Dec. Plus, the next instalment of The Missing Crown Jewel, in which Emilia Fox aims to take the investigation one step closer to identifying the famous thief, and Ant and Dec themselves star in a spectacular End of the Show Show.
8.30 The Voice UK. The contest switches gear once again in the first live knock-out show, beginning as Jennifer Hudson's six acts are whittled down to three via head-to-head performances.
9.45 ITV News; Weather.
10.00 Lethal Weapon. A maverick cop is partnered with a veteran detective trying to maintain a low stress level. Action drama based on the films, starring Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans. (R)
10.55 Film: First Blood. (1982) A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.
12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **3.30 ITV Nightvision.**

CHANNEL 4

7.10 The King of Queens. (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Frasier.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** (R) **1.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **1.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **2.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** (R) **4.35 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **5.35 Grand Designs.** (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Series following a British family through the process of buying and restoring a French chateau that has been empty for the past four decades. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adorne's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat - but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected. (R)
8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry, meets the Royal Herb Strewer and unearths a box of treasure dating back to Elizabeth I. She also takes a trip up the Thames in the gilded barge Gioriana. (R)
9.00 Film: The Wolverine. (2013) The former member of the X-Men is lured out of hiding and travels to Japan, where a dying businessman offers him the chance to give up his immortality for a normal life. He ends up robbed of his superhuman powers by a mysterious scientist and is forced to protect the tycoon's granddaughter from a secret conspiracy's assassins. Superhero adventure spin-off, starring Hugh Jackman and Tao Okamoto.
11.25 Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter. (2012)
1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.10 Hollyoaks.** **4.25 Building the Dream.** **5.20 Fifteen to One.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30 Access.** **10.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **11.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **12.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** (R) **1.30 Dance Moms.** **2.25 Dance Moms.** **3.20 Dance Moms.** **4.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** (R) **5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.**
6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company, but with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elnor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)
7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Neil goes undercover at the Department of Defence after a researcher is found dead, and a new addition fails to endear himself to the rest of the team.
8.00 NCIS. A petty officer is suspected of murdering his ex-girlfriend, and volunteers to be court-martialled so that the NCIS team will investigate and perhaps prove his innocence.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Highlights from the weekend's games, including Huddersfield Town v Newcastle United at John Smith's Stadium, Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic at Ewood Park, and Fulham v Preston North End at Craven Cottage.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Rochdale v Sheffield United, and Plymouth Argyle v Carlisle United.
10.30 Conspiracy: Pearl Harbor Cover-Up. Suggestions of a cover-up in relation to the Japanese attack in December 1941, alleging it was actually masterminded by US president Franklin D Roosevelt.
11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Inside Windsor Castle.** (R) **4.00 The Cars That Made Britain Great.** **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.15 Wildlife SOS.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Indian Hill Railways **8.00** She-Wolves: England's Early Queens **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** The Secret Science of Pop **1.05** Film: Janis: Little Girl Blue (2015) **2.35** Queens of Soul **3.35** Close
ITV2
1.30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** Take Me Out **1.55** The Voice UK **3.55** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** Film: Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **5.45** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **8.00** Scorpion **9.00** Film: American Pie 2 (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: American Pie 2 (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05** Film: Wanted (2008) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Wanted (2008) **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
11.35 Lewis **1.40** Inspector Morse **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Carry On Forever **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** Marchlands **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 The Car Chasers **12.00** Storage Wars: Texas **12.30** Live Darts: UK Open. Minehead Resort **5.00** The Darts Show **5.25** Pawn Stars **5.55** It's Not Rocket Science **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlin's Minehead Resort. **11.00** Film: Jackie Brown (1997) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Jackie Brown (1997) **2.05** Minder **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **11.15** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.30** Black-ish **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.00** Film: Mission: Impossible (1996) **7.10** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Red (2010) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** Celebs Go Dating **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** Rude Tube **4.30** Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** Revenge
Film4
11.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **1.00** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **3.10** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.55** Casper (1995) **6.55** X-Men (2000) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **9.00** The Rewrite (2014) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Marisa Tomei. **11.10** Stonehearth Asylum (2014) **1.25** Sorority Row (2009) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE



Robot Wars (BBC2, 7pm)
New series. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first group heat, with eight teams facing off through two group battles in the arena for a place in the grand final. A new twist on the format sees random house robots being sent to attack the competitors if they stray into the wrong part of the arena. Jonathan Pearce commentates on the action, while Professor Noel Sharkey, Dr Lucy Rogers and Professor Sethu Vijayakumar judge the operators' skills and select a victor in the case of an uncertain outcome.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **4.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.
6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Richard Coles present the show from the National Portrait Gallery, where the artists face two of their hardest challenges. Firstly, they have to produce a self-portrait, most of which seem to capture the subject looking afraid. They are then joined by sitters Angela Rippon and Floella Benjamin and challenged to capture their famous faces accurately on canvas.
7.00 **Countryfile.** The team explores the South Downs. Helen Skelton discovers why dark skies are important for animals. John Craven visits the Bloomsbury Group's rural retreat, and Matt Baker meets a pony that is blazing a trail across the landscape. Tom Heap travels to Spain to get to the bottom of Britain's vegetable crisis, and Adam Henson investigates new ways to stop cattle from roaming.
8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Dr Turner helps a couple whose daughter was born without limbs to have her fitted for prosthetics – but the experience provokes different reactions from her mother and father.
9.00 **SS-GB.** Archer tracks down Spode, who confesses to murdering his brother, before going in search of the missing atomic bomb plans – but the resistance are still targeting him.
10.00 **BBC News.**
10.20 **Regional Programme.**
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Tottenham Hotspur v Everton at White Hart Lane, and Sunderland v Manchester City at the Stadium of Light.
11.35 **American High School.** A student whose father is in prison has developed his own business.
12.20 **The Celebrity Apprentice USA.**
1.45 **Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.50** **BBC News.**

BBC2

6.30 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.15** An Island Parish. (R) **7.45** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **11.45** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra.
1.00 **Triathlon.** **2.30** **Live Athletics:** European Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the third and final day from the Kombank Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, where medals are awarded in 11 events. The finals of the women's and men's 800m, 3,000m and 4x400m relay will all take place on this concluding day, in addition to the women's 60m and long jump, plus the men's high jump and triple jump, and the conclusion of the heptathlon. With commentary and analysis from Steve Backley, Steve Cram, Colin Jackson, Denise Lewis and Paula Radcliffe.
7.00 **Robot Wars.** New series. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first group heat, with eight teams battling it out for a place in the grand final. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce.
8.00 **Top Gear.** New series. Another helping of four-wheel features, including test drives and reports on the latest models, plus a celebrity taking to the show's test track in Star in a Reasonably Priced Car.
9.00 **Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week.** The seven remaining contestants arrive in Australia for the final challenge, where they undergo training with the Special Air Service Regiment – but must first undergo a gruelling exercise to see if they are physically prepared for what is to come. Those that make it through this stage face tactical interrogation and an endurance race wearing weighted rucksacks. Last in the series.
10.00 **Film: London Road.** (2015) Premiere. Ipswich residents' real accounts of a series of murders committed in their neighbourhood are presented in song. Fact-based musical, starring Olivia Colman and Tom Hiddleston.
11.30 **Film: Papillon.** (1973) A Frenchman imprisoned for life on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit makes a desperate bid for freedom. Fact-based drama, starring Steve McQueen.
1.55 **Taboo.** (R) **2.55** **Sign Zone:** Question Time. (R) **3.55** **Holby City.** (R) **4.50** **This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 **CITV:** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** **Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** **Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** **Sooty.** (R) **6.55** **Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.00** **Ooddbods.** (R) **7.05** **Thunderbirds:** Be Go. (R) **7.30** **Scrambled!** **7.35** **Mr Bean:** The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** **Ultimate Spider-Man:** Web Warriors. **8.20** **Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.45** **Teen Titans Go!** (R) **9.05** **Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** **Countrywise:** Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** **Peston on Sunday.** **10.55** **Gino's Italian Escape:** Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** **Chopping Block.** (R) **12.25** **Who's Doing the Dishes?** (R) **1.30** **ITV News:** Weather. **1.35** **The Voice UK.** (R) **2.50** **Little Big Shots.** (R) **3.50** **The Chase.** (R) **4.50** **Tipping Point.** (R) **5.50** **Regional Programme:** Weather.
6.00 **ITV News:** Weather.
6.15 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving the planet from any potential alien invasion. (R)
6.40 **Five Gold Rings.** New series. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app.
7.45 **The Voice UK.** The second live knockout show, which sees three of Tom Jones' acts eliminated, while the others go through to a place in the quarter final. Jennifer Hudson performs in the studio.
9.00 **The Good Karma Hospital.** Lydia and Ruby visit a convent to make a seemingly miraculous diagnosis, but the treatment of a young nun and the senior doctor's interfering attitude creates tension between them.
10.00 **ITV News:** Weather.
10.20 **The Nightly Show Best Bits.** New series. Highlights from the previous week.
10.50 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R)
11.50 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 17th round of fixtures, including Leicester Tigers v Exeter Chiefs, Bath v Wasps, and Newcastle Falcons v Saracens.
12.40 **Jackpot247.** **3.00** **Chopping Block.** (R) **3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **The King of Queens.** (R) **6.40** **The King of Queens.** (R) **7.05** **The King of Queens.** (R) **7.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.55** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.25** **Frasier.** (R) **9.00** **Frasier.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00** **The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30** **The Simpsons.** (R) **2.00** **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **3.00** **Location, Location, Location.** (R) **4.00** **Channel 4 News.** **4.30** **Film:** Fantastic Four. (2005) Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd.
6.30 **The Jump.** The remaining contestants compete for a place in the final, battling it out in the air jump, an event that requires them to gain the most height during a ski jump. They then move on to the Giant Slalom – the fastest event in the competition, on a much longer and steeper course than previous slalom events. Presented by Davina McCall.
8.00 **Rivers with Jeremy Paxman.** The presenter explores the Severn, Britain's longest river, which flows through both England and Wales. Along the way, he explores the largest ship graveyard in the country, meets the last practitioners of an unusual form of fishing, and takes part in a coracle regatta. He finally reaches the source of the river, where he meets a local poet.
9.00 **Homeland.** Carrie follows a lead, Saul meets an old friend, and Keane takes a stand. Starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Mandy Patinkin.
10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00 **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz as Sean Lock and Henning Wehn compete against Jon Richardson and Victoria Coren Mitchell. (R)
12.00 **Film: Broken City.** (2013) A New York private eye hired to find out if the mayor's wife is having an affair discovers a web of political corruption. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe. **2.00** **The Last Leg.** With Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan. (R) **2.55** **Under Lock and Key.** The stories of families whose loved ones are locked away in hospitals. (R) **3.50** **Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** A pink property in Southend-on-Sea. (R) **4.45** **Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **6.10** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **6.15** **Milkshake! Bop Box.** (R) **6.20** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **6.30** **Bob the Builder.** (R) **6.45** **Fireman Sam.** (R) **6.55** **Rupert Bear.** (R) **7.05** **Oily the Little White Van.** (R) **7.10** **Wanda and the Alien.** (R) **7.25** **Little Princess.** (R) **7.35** **Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.50** **Blaze and the Monster Machines.** (R) **8.20** **Noddy: Toyland Detective.** (R) **8.35** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **8.50** **Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.20** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.30** **Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.40** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.50** **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.25** **Football on 5: The Championship.** (R) **11.20** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** (R) **11.50** **Film:** The Fifth Element. (1997) **2.10** **Film:** Spies Like Us. (1985) **4.10** **Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh.** (R) **5.10** **Cruising with Jane McDonald.** (R)
6.05 **Inside Windsor Castle.** Documentary marking the centenary of the Windsor dynasty by examining the history of the royal residence over the past 80 years, beginning with the fire of 1992. (R)
7.00 **Inside Windsor Castle.** A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film. (R)
8.00 **Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** New series. Cases include a woman with rental arrears of almost £3,000 after renting a house out, and a team investigates poor living conditions above a Birmingham shop.
8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
9.00 **The Bruce Forsyth Story: From the Palladium to the Palace.** New series. A look back at the entertainer's 75 years in showbiz, featuring candid interviews with Forsyth and contributions from biographers, colleagues and famous fans.
10.30 **An Audience with Bruce Forsyth.** The versatile veteran entertainer reveals his many talents in a feast of song and dance before a VIP audience, who quiz him about his remarkable career. (R)
11.35 **Bruce Forsyth's Comedy Heroes.** The entertainer discusses his favourite comics. (R)
12.35 **Peter Kay: The Early Years.** (R) **12.55** **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh.** (R) **4.00** **When Kids Kill: Catfish Killer.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 **Sound of Song 8.00** Kiri Te Kanawa at the BBC **9.00** **Film:** The Hunt (2012) **10.50** **Sound Waves:** The Symphony of Physics **11.50** **Every Breath We Take:** Understanding Our Atmosphere **12.50** **Timeshift:** Hurricanes and Heatwaves – The Highs and Lows of British Weather **1.45** **Mumbai High:** The Musical **2.50** Kiri Te Kanawa at the BBC **3.50** **Close**
ITV2
11.45 **The Voice UK** **1.00** **2Awesome:** 2Awesome **1.05** **2Awesome:** Guidance **1.40** **2Awesome:** Fame High **2.05** **2Awesome:** Third Wheel **2.30** **2Awesome:** LA Story **2.50** **You've Been Framed!** Gold: Top 100 Holidays **3.50** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **5.25** **Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** **FYI Daily** **6.30** **Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** **Ibiza Weekend** **10.00** **Family Guy** **11.30** **American Dad!** **12.30** **The Cleveland Show** **1.25** **Ibiza Weekend** **2.20** **Teleshopping** **5.50** **ITV2 Nightscreen**
ITV3
12.45 **Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **1.45** **FYI Daily** **1.50** **Film:** The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **2.35** **Inspector Morse** **4.55** **Agatha Christie's Marple** **6.55** **Midsomer Murders** **9.00** **Tonight at the London Palladium** **11.00** **Carry On Forever** **11.05** **Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **12.05** **FYI Daily** **12.10** **Film:** Carry On Camping (1969) **12.55** **Inspector Morse** **2.45** **Wildlife** **3.40** **May the Best House Win** **5.25** **ITV3 Nightscreen**
ITV4
12.45 **Live Darts:** UK Open. The quarter-finals at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** **Pawn Stars** **5.55** **Fishing Impossible** **7.00** **Live Darts:** UK Open. The semi-finals and final at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00** **Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.00** **FYI Daily** **12.05** **Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.55** **The Football Mavericks** **1.55** **I Want That Car** **2.45** **ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00** **Teleshopping**
E4
12.00 **The Jump** **1.40** **Film:** Step Up (2006) **3.40** **The Goldbergs** **6.05** **The Big Bang Theory** **7.00** **Film:** Unstoppable (2010) **9.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **10.00** **Film:** The Grey (2011) **12.15** **Celebs Go Dating** **2.20** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **3.05** **Gap Year** **3.55** **Hollyoaks**
Film
11.00 **The First Film** (2015) **1.25** **Hugo** (2011) **3.50** **Carry On Behind** (1975) **5.35** **Ice Age: Continental Drift** (2012) **7.15** **Johnny English** (2003) **9.00** **Mr Turner** (2014) **11.55** **Cheap Thrills** (2013) **1.40** **Wrong Turn at Tahoe** (2009) **3.30** **Closer**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra, Channel 5, 11.05pm
When a powerful experimental weapon is snatched by a mysterious terrorist organisation, two of the soldiers guarding it are recruited into a top-secret military strike force. As they go in search of the stolen technology, they uncover a plot by its creator to take over the world. Action adventure, with Channing Tatum and Sienna Miller. (2009)

TUESDAY
Deadly Pursuit, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An Alaskan wilderness guide visits a friend in LA, where he meets and falls in love with a well-off city girl. She clearly feels the same because when he returns home, she decides to follow him – only to come up against his ex-girlfriend and a sinister drug operation. Romantic thriller, starring KC Clyde. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Two Wrongs, Channel 5, 3.20pm
Nurse and single mother Sarah struggles to balance her work and home life, but her worst nightmare is realised when her daughter Lauren is abducted while walking home alone from school and she faces a moral dilemma if she is to save her child. Thriller, starring Gillian Zinser. (2015)



THURSDAY
Perfect Life, Perfect Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Four young women meet up at a school reunion, where they unearth a time capsule in which they buried their deepest, darkest secrets. Inside the box is a revelation that unlocks the mystery of a tragic death 10 years earlier. Thriller, starring Kacey Clarke. (2016)

FRIDAY
Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, BBC1, 10.35pm
A buccaneer and a blacksmith commandeer a British ship and set sail in pursuit of a pirate captain who has kidnapped a colonial governor's daughter. However, their quarry and his crew are under a curse that turns them into living skeletons – and makes them impossible to kill. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom, Keira Knightley and Geoffrey Rush. (2003)

Harry's new series is out of this world

Only a fevered imagination such as that belonging to Harry Hill could come up with the format of this extraordinary show.

Each week, two teams of celebrity guests are presented with an unusual task – to find a way of saving Earth from invasion and possible destruction by rogue aliens.

Often, when such a threat is depicted in a science fiction TV show or film, the extra-terrestrials seem to think they can take over the planet because humans are either a pushover or not worthy of their consideration – Hill wants to prove we're neither of those things by finding items that prove we are all good fun and therefore should be saved.

Along the way there are lots of gags, sketches and special guests who look on as amusing items are put forward for Hill's perusal – he ultimately decides what should be included in the Fun Capsule, and the more a team manages to have submitted, the more likely they are to win the game.

"It's great to be back on ITV with an all new format that finally tackles the problem of an imminent and prolonged war with space aliens, by proving to them that us humans are really a lot of fun to hang out with!" grins the comedian.

The channel's comedy commissioning editor Saskia Schuster adds: "We're really excited to have Harry back on ITV, and we're confident that the human race will be safe in his hands with this brand new panel show packed with laughs, silliness and of course, fun."

The keyword when it comes to this series is certainly 'silly', but while some may think it's a derogatory term, it's actually used in its most positive sense here.

The world is a dark and scary place at the moment, and sometimes being able to forget our woes by just being plain daft is a wonderful thing, so Hill should carry on the good work as long as is humanly possible!

Last week's opening edition was both bonkers and hilarious in equal measure, and there's no reason to think that this one won't be either. If anything, this week's promises to be even better thanks to an appearance by Kathy Burke; she rarely pops up on TV these days, so when she does, you know it's for something both close to her heart and worth tuning in for.

Although she has appeared in many dramatic roles, Burke remains best known for her comedy appearances alongside Harry Enfield, as well as Absolutely Fabulous, Gimme Gimme Gimme and Walking and Talking, a sitcom based on her own teenage experiences.

It's quite a coup to have tempted Burke back to TV – we suspect she may be a fan of Hill's and so keen to work with him.

She will be joined on the show by celebrity chef and TV personality Ainsley Harriott (will Percy Pepper and Susie Salt make it into the capsule? Stranger things have happened), comedian Joe Lycett and morning talk show host Lorraine Kelly.



Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule, Thursday, ITV, 8.30pm

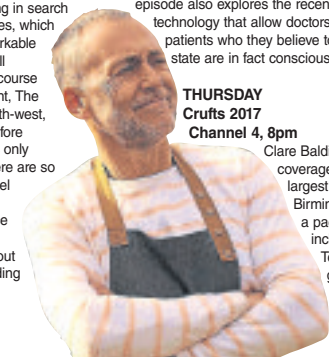
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Mutiny Channel 4, 9pm
New series. Nine men recreate a voyage by William Bligh in 1789, when he and his loyal crewmen crossed 4,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean from Tonga to Timor after being cast adrift from HMS Bounty by mutinying seamen and left for dead. SAS: Who Dares Wins chief instructor Anthony Middleton is in charge of a crew of eight made up of sailors and complete novices, attempting the journey in a replica 23ft open wooden boat, with similar equipment and the same rations of food and water that Bligh's men had. Continues tomorrow.

TUESDAY
The Secret Life of the Zoo Channel 4, 8pm
At Chester Zoo, Rothschild giraffe Tula is a week overdue after a 13-month pregnancy. But keepers are anxious that history could repeat itself – she gave birth to a stillborn calf last year. Cameras also follow this year's brood of penguin chicks. They are about to face the ordeal of joining the main pool, where they must compete for fish with the adult penguins. And baby silver gibbon Eko learns how to swing between ropes - 50 feet up. All the keepers can do is watch anxiously from below.

WEDNESDAY
Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr Channel 4, 8pm
It seems that for some chefs it's not quite enough to serve up new and unusual dishes – they want their restaurants to be out of the ordinary as well. In this new series, Michel Roux Jr is going in search of some of Britain's 'esecret' eateries, which are hidden within some truly remarkable locations. He's hoping the visits will inspire him as he creates a three-course menu for his own hidden restaurant, The Oast House. He begins in the south-west, where he ventures into a forest before checking out a floating café that is only accessible by boat. It turns out there are so many of these hidden gems, Michel needs help finding them all, so he also recruits Freddy Bird, who once transformed a dilapidated lido in Bristol into a restaurant, to check out some other unlikely venues, including a Latin American 'bustaurant'.

The House That £100K Built BBC2, 8pm
Surgeon Gabriel Weston investigates the most complex



Hidden Restaurants with Michel Roux Jr, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

and mysterious part of the human body, the brain, meeting with extraordinary people with seemingly superhuman abilities. Dr Weston meets Derek, a man who was suddenly able to play piano after a head injury, and Paul, who has a hereditary genetic condition which means he can't feel pain. This episode also explores the recent developments in technology that allow doctors to identify if patients who they believe to be in a vegetative state are in fact conscious and aware.

THURSDAY
Crufts 2017 Channel 4, 8pm
Clare Balding presents further coverage from the world's largest dog show at Birmingham NEC, where a packed programme includes judging of the Terrier and Hound groups and highlights of the Agility and Flyball. Clare also meets last year's Crufts winner Devon, who is

competing in the Eukanuba World Challenge – a league of nations-style competition for top winners from different countries. Kate Beavan and Nim Patel team up to talk about dog health and welfare, Iwan Thomas reports on dog socialisation, and there's an appearance from cat-detection dog Molly.

FRIDAY
The Gadget Show Channel 5, 7pm
Actor, presenter, voiceover man, comedian, DJ, poet and jungle inhabitant – is there anything Craig Charles cannot turn his hand to? For the next 12 weeks Charles will anchor the revamped Gadget Show from its new studio base in Birmingham. Tonight, the show's other new host, tech journalist Georgie Barrat, kicks off a series-long challenge in which she endeavours to see if gadgets can improve the performance of Monkey Tree FC – an amateur football team hovering near the bottom of Division Two of the East Midlands Public Authorities League. Jon Bentley finds out how snappy Samsung's new 360 camera is by testing it out at a 'wall of death', filming motorcycles whizzing round a circular vertical wall at 40mph. Finally, Craig inboxes a brand-new Nintendo Switch, the much-hyped new games console, just one week after its worldwide launch.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 21 | | 26 | | 19 | 2 | 19 | 26 | 13 | | 10 | | |
| 13 | 20 | 19 | 6 | | | 11 | | | 21 | 19 | 5 | 18 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Z | Q | R | O | E | B | T | C | I | L | W | Y | J |
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| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Sole reinforcement (7)
- Fish appears to be off! (5)
- Animal found in decreasing numbers (3)
- Holder of the post (6,3)
- He tries to prevent ill-feeling among the crew (5,6)
- Injury for which there is no earthly cure (6,5)
- Eats in bar, perhaps, but he won't drink in one (9)
- Howl for a type of rum (3)
- Silly Annie gets confused (5)
- Go ahead and give someone money (7)

Down

- Certain to jump (5)
- Close finish (3)
- Asbestos should contain it (4)
- They're a blend of the main races (9)
- Its strength can be shown by proof (7)
- The artist's sitting room (6)
- It may give an edge to the news, possibly (9)
- Wan friend takes cover (6)
- Get together - for getting in the harvest (7)
- Game that may come alight? (5)
- A boy naturally opposed to the current trend (4)
- A boy naturally opposed to the current trend (4)
- He's had plenty of time to insulate the boiler (3)

| | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
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| 17 | | | 18 | 19 |
| | | | | 20 |
| 21 | | | 22 | |

Quick Clues:

Across

- Income (7)
- Advance (3,2)
- Purchase (3)
- Solemnize (9)
- Association (11)
- Calligraphy (11)
- Dilatory one (9)
- Attempt (3)
- Haste (5)
- Seer (7)

Down

- Confute (5)
- Acquire (3)
- Heal (4)
- Stand for (9)
- Include (7)
- Vanquish (6)
- Made by hand (9)
- Numbness (6)
- Unfeeling (7)
- Hail (5)
- Trouble (4)
- Fitting (3)

Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 6 | | | 9 | | 4 | 3 | | |
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| | | 9 | 4 | | 8 | | | 1 |

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Made to measure; 8 Interred; 9 Item; 10 Chilli; 12 Latest; 14 Spiced; 16 Mishap; 18 Odds; 20 Comedian; 22 Get on together. Down: 1 Pawn shop; 2 Reveal; 3 Four; 4 Pendulum; 5 Assist; 6 Free; 11 Indicate; 13 Seafarer; 15 Custom; 17 Sedate; 19 Diet; 21 Mail.
QUICK - Across: 7 Temperamental; 8 Funereal; 9 Role; 10 Barrel; 12 Cleave; 14 Lessen; 16 Tubing; 18 Pair; 20 Timorous; 22 Supplementary. Down: 1 Regulate; 2 Appear; 3 Urge; 4 Implicit; 5 Untrue; 6 Wall; 11 Lengthen; 13 Vanguard; 15 Stripe; 17 Berate; 19 Abut; 21 Meek.

Quiz

- From which post did John Profumo resign in 1963?
- Who wrote the allegory The Pilgrim's Progress?
- In which country are the Pampas Plains?
- Which bird is called the chickadee in America?
- Of what is agaric a type?
- By what name do we know Michel de Nostredame?
- What is a quebracho?
- Which sport contests the Pilkington Cup?
- Which prominent politician was in the band Ugly Rumours in the 70s?
- What type of bird is a condor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Inuits; 2 Sir Anthony Hopkins; 3 USA and Great Britain; 4 Click beetle; 5 Puma; 6 George Foreman; 7 Canada; 8 Franklin D Roosevelt; 9 Italy; 10 Anatoly Karpov.
Niner: DOVETAILS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6347 gives a bird,
9728 gives a second bird,
651172 gives a third bird.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | | |

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The Ticket

Make a night of it

Olly's at the Genting on Thursday, March 23 and our hearts are skipping a beat at the very thought of it. The Ticket's here to help you enjoy your date with the Troublemaker giving you the lowdown on all the best places to be. . .

A real Gent – where would Olly go before a big night out?



EAT UP



Simple supper or fancy food, whatever tickles your tastebuds there's a dining destination to be found at Resorts World. But where would Olly go? We reckon he'd be up for a quick bite at TGI Friday's, with its American inspired fodder, it's grilling stuff. Think Chicken wings, Cajun shrimp, Jack Daniel's sesame mushroom strips and pulled pork sundae washed down with a bottle of Bud.

IN THE DRINK



There's no point waiting around feeling at a loose end before it's show time, Olly's a cheeky chappy and he's sure to be first up for a bevvie or two.

Head to the The World Bar where there are more than 40 craft beers on offer from ales and stouts to lagers and even beer cocktails. Fancy a Jewellery Porter with a complex taste of coffee, chocolate and toffee with a delightful array of subtle fruit notes? Yes please, we'll drink to that.

PILLOW TALK



LUXURY LAYOVER

Splash out and make a night of it and stay at the recently opened Genting Hotel right on site. Prices start from £97 to £297 so it's up to you if you go a little crazy on a room or completely wild in a snazzy suite. With bars, restaurant and a spa you could even make a weekend of it. If it's a night with the girls, enjoy some treatments and make yourself beautiful before you see Olly in action and then dream about him later as you slumber in style.

CHEAP SLEEPS

If you're strapped for cash then save your pennies by catching your zzzs at the Premier Inn which is a 25-minute walk away from the Genting. From only £35 a night it won't stretch your budget leaving you some spare cash for drinks and if you're a really big fan, any Olly merch from the gig. If he spots you in an I 'heart' Olly T-shirt he may well ask: "Dance With Me Tonight!"

TRAVEL LIGHT

WHERE TO PARK

Driving to the gig? Then there's loads of space to park right by the arena. Even better, if you pre-pay, you can avoid the queues at the payment kiosk and get to your seat a little bit quicker. No chance of you missing the support act either.

ON TRACK

If you fancy a few drinks or don't want to be stuck in traffic jams before or after the gig, then there's no need to drive. Trains run direct to Birmingham NEC from across the region making it easy peasy to get there on time.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

31
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 2, 2017

Modern well presented second floor apartment

A modern well-presented second floor apartment, 46 Wellspring Gardens in Dudley lies close to town with access to surrounding centres and Merry Hill.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £89,950 with no upward chain.

The property has deceptively spacious accommodation with uPVC sealed unit double glazing and gas fired central heating.

The apartment is secure and low maintenance and would be ideal for a first-time buyer or an investor, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

The accommodation – with a telephone entry system – comprises an entrance hall with a radiator, entry phone and a built-in cupboard off and a lounge with a radiator, a window and a French window opening to a Juliette balcony.

The kitchen area has a stainless steel single drainer inset sink top, base cupboards with a skirting fan heater, wall cupboards, a drawer unit, work surfaces, an Electrolux electric oven and gas hob with extractor hood over, an integrated AEG fridge and freezer, a Zanussi dishwasher and Zanussi automatic washer/dryer and a window.

Bedroom one faces the front of the development. It has a radiator, a built-in mirror door wardrobe and window. Bedroom two also lies at the front of the apartment's layout, having a radiator and a window.

The bathroom has a panelled bath with a shower over and a shower screen, a pedestal wash hand basin, low level WC, radiator, extractor fan and part-tiled walls.

Outside, there is communal access to the flat with a mail box, communal bin store and an allocated parking space.

If you are thinking of selling your home, then Wakeman Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents in Dudley offer a free market appraisal, in order to give you advice on the marketing and asking price for your home.

All viewings are arranged through their offices and they make every endeavour to obtain viewing feedback and report this to you.

DUDLEY £89,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman

TEL: 01384 459999

EMAIL: dudley@wakeman-online.com

KEY FEATURES

Modern 2nd floor apartment

Deceptively spacious

2 bedrooms

Kitchen & bin store

Allocated parking



He's sold

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01902 880888

Also at **Stourbridge** and **Halesowen**



GORNAL WOOD, Guys Lane

A remarkably SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached residence. Accommodation provides canopy porch, imposing reception hall, cloakroom, separate dining room, elegant lounge, magnificent 17 ft kitchen with an extensive range of units & integrated appliances, utility room. Gallery landing, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Garage, lawned gardens. EPC: B SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £400,000



GOSPEL END VILLAGE, NR. Sedgley, Gospel End Road

ENVIABLY SITUATED ABUTTING ONTO OPEN FIELDS with tremendous distant views. Superb stylish gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached in favoured district having porch, hall, understair store, 22ft through living/dining room, kitchen, utility room, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, recently reappointed/re-tiled bathroom with, art-deco style suite, large garage, delightful gardens. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950



KINGSWINFORM, Grantley Crescent

Superbly located, within sought after 'Valley Fields', this IMPRESSIVE & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW includes a LARGE CONSERVATORY and enjoys an open front outlook together with an attractively landscaped and low maintenance sunny/ private rear garden. EPC D

£249,950



LOWER GORNAL, Longfellow Road, Straits

NO UPWARD CHAIN, Well maintained semi-detached property in the very desirable area of 'THE STRAITS' Lower Gornal. As well as having an EXTENSION to rear which incorporates a wet room, sitting room, utility, guest W/C and utility room, this home also boasts; porch, hall, living room, extended dining room, extended kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with driveway and garden to front. EPC: D

Offers in the region of £219,950



DUDLEY, Mansion Close, Earls Keep

Superbly presented DETACHED situated on the Earls Keep development & benefitting from gas central heating & double glazing this family home also boasts; living room, dining area, kitchen-diner, conservatory, utility room, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS with en-suite to master bedroom, bathroom, landscaped rear garden, garage & driveway. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC:E SEDGLEY

WAS £224,950, NOW £219,950



LOWER GORNAL, Shakespeare Road, Straits

Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority uPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities briefly comprising porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby. Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000



GORNAL WOOD, Eaton Crescent

Situated on a fantastic corner position in the extremely popular GORNAL WOOD area of Dudley this DETACHED bungalow offers so much. With entrance hallway and garage, this DETACHED BUNGALOW also benefits from L-shaped open lounge-diner, kitchen, bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS central heating, driveway and enveloped by low-maintenance gardens all around the property. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Hillcrest Avenue

This SUBSTANTIAL & VERY WELL ARRANGED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, L-Shaped Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Guests W.C, Conservatory, House Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room, Driveway & Pleasant Garden. EPC C

£199,950



NETHERTON, Racemeadow Crescent

This MODERN STYLE, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Well Fitted Kitchen, Stylish Lounge, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, TOP FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM with En Suite & Dressing Room, Driveway, Garage & Garden. EPC C

£169,950

New



WOODSETTON, Roper Way

Fantastically presented, generously EXTENDED modern property in the popular Woodsetton area benefitting from gas central heating & double glazing this DETACHED family home also consists of porch, living room, dining room, breakfast-kitchen, utility, conservatory, FOUR BEDROOMS with recently fitted ensuite to master, bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with drive to fore. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £264,950

New



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

Magnificent, "PENTHOUSE STYLE" SECOND FLOOR PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE! - Tremendously enhanced/enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed Detached family home at head of cul-de-sac with PANORAMIC, DISTANT VIEWS comprising: hall, cloaks, 22"10" lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, utility room, Three bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom. Second floor 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with centre piece 'jacuzzi', and floor to ceiling glazing. Garage, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £255,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Alley

EXCELLENTLY SITUATED within walking distance of the village in quiet 'backwater' this tremendously upgraded gas centrally & double glazed detached family home comprises: entrance porch, hall, lounge, separate dining room, conservatory, refitted kitchen, pantry, three generous bedrooms (two with fitted units), bathroom with 'heritage' suite, carport, garage, secluded/sheltered garden to side and rear. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £210,000



WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

A conscientiously maintained much improved gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed detached with GARAGE AT REAR (and additional parking) in a popular neighbourhood. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, cupboard, lounge, transverse dining kitchen (with patio doors to garden) store, three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, neat garden, garage and parking. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £165,000



LOWER GORNAL, Mount Close

Good sized & conscientiously maintained semi-detached is enviously situated on Mount Close in the sought after Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this family home also boasts: entrance hall, living room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom with separate W/C, landscaped rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £165,000



DUDLEY, Belvoir Close, Milking Bank

Conscientiously maintained and improved freehold gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed semi detached at head of cul-de-sac upon popular development with panoramic distant views from the rear. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen, pantry, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), upgraded bathroom with white suite, potential garage space, delightful landscape (designed for low maintenance) and secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £145,000, NOW £142,500



WORDSLEY, Ridgeway Road

A LARGE TRADITIONAL THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a private rear aspect from the generous rear garden, backing onto the canal and with a LARGE FRONT DRIVEWAY. A position which enhances the BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED and SPACIOUS layout EPC C

No upward chain £139,950



WOODSETTON, Rosalind Avenue

EXTENDED, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated & either UPVC or aluminium framed double glazed semi detached comprising: porch, hall, 23'3" through living/dining room, EXTENDED kitchen with an extensive range of units, pantry, lobby. Three bedrooms, shower room, toilet. Lengthy garage. Driveway and extensive rear patio together with neat garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,950



COSELEY, Rounds Hill Road

Conveniently located in the Coseley area of Bilston, this ideal starter home has been well maintained with both central heating and double glazing. This semi-detached property also benefits from entrance hallway, through lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden and drive to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



PENSNETT, Birds Meadow

VERY WELL PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprising: Hall, Spacious Sitting Room, Well Fitted Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Three Generous First Floor Bedrooms, Shower Room, Driveway, Garage. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC D

£119,950



SEDGLEY, Kings Road

Conveniently situated within walking distance of Sedgley Centre, this traditional terraced property has huge potential. Benefiting from entrance porch and hallway, this THREE BEDROOM also has living room, dining room, kitchen, guest W/C, bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating. front and rear gardens and is being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

A conscientiously maintained majority gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' with further potential. Set in a popular/convenient district the accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge, kitchen, dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, through lobby, outer porch, two stores, WC, off road parking, garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £112,000



Brierley Hill, Columbus Avenue

EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, TWO BEDROOM, SECOND FLOOR, APARTMENT comprising: OPEN PLAN SITTING ROOM with dining area and KITCHEN, principal bedroom with EN SUITE, further bedroom and bathroom. Communal grounds and designated parking space. EPC C

£104,950



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf

BUY-TO-LET INVESTORS ONLY - TENANT IN SITU: WELL PRESENTED, TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, Modern Kitchen, Two Generous Bedrooms (En-Suite Shower Room), Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Pretty Communal Grounds. EPC B

£94,995



PENSNETT, Primrose Park

AN IMPRESSIVE TWO BEDROOM MEWS BUNGALOW, delightfully located within this sought after retirement and warden controlled development, all set within secure gated and beautifully maintained gardens/ grounds, including communal RESIDENT CAR PARKING. EPC D

£94,950



COSELEY, Ettingshall Road

CASH OFFERS ONLY based on £65,000 for the executor's consideration Midday on Monday 6th March 2017. Spacious freehold gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached for modernisation. MINING SEARCH AVAILABLE. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, through living room, dining room, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, shower room, off road parking, garden. EPC: TBC SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £65,000



PENSNETT, High Street

THIS EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED & SPACIOUS APARTMENT comprises: Communal Hall & Stairs, Attractive Sitting Room, Fantastic Kitchen Diner, Generous DOUBLE Bedroom, Well Appointed Modern Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Pretty Communal Grounds. EPC: F

£64,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Dadford View

THIS VERY WELL PRESENTED & BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, GROUND FLOOR, MAISONNETTE comprises: Porch, Lovely Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge, Generous Double Bedroom, Stunning White Suite Bathroom, Allocated Parking & Pretty Communal Gardens. EPC: D

New price £56,950



Spacious and beautifully presented detached home

GORNAL WOOD
£325,000 <<<

This exceptionally spacious and beautifully presented detached modern residence in Hopyard Lane, Gornal Wood, Dudley, is for sale through Taylors at £325,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an imposing entrance hall, a fitted cloakroom/WC, a sitting room with a bay window and Minster fireplace, a magnificent dining kitchen with granite work surfaces and contemporary oak units and many integrated appliances.

It also has a utility room, dining room and a conservatory.

Bedroom one has fitted wardrobes and a shower room, and there are three further generous bedrooms, a bathroom, large garage and a secluded garden.

For further information contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Large bungalow is on a corner plot

HALESOWEN
£325,000

The Drive in Halesowen, is a generously proportioned detached bungalow situated on a large corner plot of approximately quarter of acre with gated driveway.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £325,000.

Conveniently located, close to Halesowen town centre and transport links, it has a fully fitted kitchen, a large utility, a guest WC, two reception rooms, three spacious bedrooms, a bathroom and gas central heating, double glazing where specified. The lower floor has a large garage and two workshops and there are large gardens, a driveway and garage.

In more detail the kitchen comes with an integrated electric cooker, integrated gas hob, large storage cupboard with shelving and quarry tiled flooring.

Call 0121 585 6667 to book a viewing.



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AUCTION – 14TH MARCH 2017



42 BIRCHES PARK ROAD, CODSALL

Large three bedroomed Home, two Reception, fitted Kitchen, smart Bathroom, Gas C.H, Double Glazing, Garage, attractive Gardens. epc.C71

Guide: £144,000 - £149,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th MARCH @ 10.45 a.m**



593 STAFFORD ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Ready for modernisation - popular district - well located three bed Semi., Bathroom, Two Reception, Kitchen, Laundry, G.F. wc., Garage facility, long Rear Garden est. 100ft epc.F37

Guide: £93,000 - £98,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th MARCH @ 9.45 a.m.**



68 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Ground Floor Flat 14ft. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart Bathroom Garage, pleasant rear outlook. epc.E54

Guide: £48,000 - £53,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th MARCH @ 11.45 a.m**



240 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Elevated position, large Dormer Bungalow Porch, Lounge, big Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, 19ft. F.F. Bedroom, Store Room, Gas CH., DG. Gardens, 24ft. Garage. epc F39

Guide £115,000 - £120,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 3rd & 4th MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.

(Access via Mount Road and Lane Road)



14 WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

Ripe for improvement & close to Town Centre. Spacious End Terrace, Porch, Three Reception, Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms huge 16ft Bathroom!! Outside - WC, Stores, lawned Garden. epc.F37

Guide £49,000 plus

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th MARCH @ 12.00 noon**



168 - 169 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL

Fronting Stafford Street (B4210), established shopping area.

Double fronted - approx, 28ft. - Retail Unit, Kitchen (1st / 2nd floors not currently accessible)

Rear Yard, Parking. epc C.65

Guide: £85,000 - £95,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & MONDAY
3rd & 6th MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.**



49 HIGHLAND ROAD, DUDLEY

Large Semi, Double Glazing, CH., Two Reception, extended Kitchen / Diner, fitted Cloakroom Three Bedrooms, En Suite + sep. Bathroom Rear Garden. epc.E54

Guide: £84,000 - £89,000

VIEWING

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
3rd & 4th MARCH @ 10.00 a.m**



VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

Please Register for Catalogue

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION (subject to Conditions and prior sale)
on **TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2017 @ 6.30 p.m.**

at **The Ramada Park Hall Hotel**

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Detached family home in private off-road position

A home in a convenient position, yet with a rural feel, this three-bedroom detached family home in High Haden Road, Cradley Heath, is superbly presented throughout.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £250,000.

In a most unusual, private, off-road position with a superb aspect

CRADLEY HEATH

£250,000

over the surrounding area, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom/ WC, a large lounge, impressive conservatory, superbly proportioned farmhouse-style kitchen with a range

cooker, three good sized bedrooms and a well-proportioned bathroom. The property has gas central heating, double glazing and good-sized grounds.

The kitchen has a range of pine units, ceramic flooring, an archway to a utility area with plumbing.

For further information, contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.

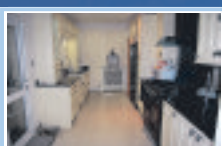
Wakeman

team
teamprop.co.uk



101 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON **£349,950**

- Impressive, traditional extended four bedroom detached residence
- Well proportioned & considerably improved enhanced accommodation
- Extended rear lounge with views over protected fields
- Set back from the road with ample parking for several cars.
- EPC RATING E



HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE

BREWERS WALK, DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY

£237,000

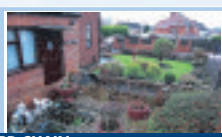
- New build detached house
- Four bedrooms
- Spacious accommodation with parking for 3 vehicles
- Will be built to a high standard
- Built on the former Leopard Inn & Sedgley Brewery
- EPC RATING B



NO UPWARD CHAIN

81 NEW STREET, GORNAL WOOD **O/A £179,950**

- Individually designed and built traditional style detached house
- Well proportioned, extended and enlarged three bedroom accommodation
- Potential for further enhancement & upgrading to a discerning buyers own style
- Occupying a wide road frontage with ample off road parking
- EPC RATING E



NO UPWARD CHAIN

7 LEA GREEN AVENUE, TIPTON **O/A £145,000**

- Superbly presented & improved semi detached house
- Extensively renovated & improved with high quality fittings
- High quality rear conservatory with under floor heating
- Two double bedrooms (bedroom two could be split into two rooms)
- EPC RATING C



NO UPWARD CHAIN

46 WELLSRING GARDENS **£89,950**

- Second floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Situated on a new development
- Low maintenance
- EPC RATING B



NO UPWARD CHAIN

69 JOCKEY FIELDS **£65,000**

- Upper Gornal
- First floor flat
- One bedroom plus nursery/study
- Gas centrally heated
- Communal grounds
- EPC RATING C



TO LET

£9,500 per annum

- Detached office building
- Flexible office accommodation
- Well maintained and carpeted
- Car parking for several vehicles
- Prominently situated
- EPC RATING D

83-84 CINDER BANK DUDLEY



HELP TO BUY AVAILABLE ON ALL PROPERTIES

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Skoda Yeti gets extra trim levels that major on value

By James Parker

Skoda has updated the Yeti SUV with the addition of two new trim levels.

Dubbed SE Drive and SE L Drive, the newcomers sit above the mid-spec SE and top-of-the-range SE L trims respectively.

According to the Czech manufacturer, both models add thousands of pounds' worth of extra equipment for three-figure price increases.

The SE Drive offers satellite navigation, digital radio, an auto-dimming rear-view mirror, heated seats, a heated windscreen and front parking sensors, in addition to the standard SE's climate control, rear parking sensors and Bluetooth phone connectivity.

Skoda says the extra kit is worth an extra £2,295, yet with a starting price of £20,095, the car is only £935 more expensive than the SE.

The SE L Drive, meanwhile, comes in at £21,745 – £755 more than the current SE L – but adds leather upholstery LED tail lights and 17-inch Origami wheels.

Up front, both cars are available with one of two engines: a 1.2-litre petrol and a 2.0-litre diesel.

The 1.2-litre unit is the entry-level powerplant, producing 108bhp and allowing the option of a six-speed manual or automatic transmission.



The 148bhp variant gets four-wheeled drive

The diesel, meanwhile, is offered in two states of tune, with the basic 108bhp engine giving the option of four-wheel drive, but limiting customers to a manual gearbox. The 148bhp variant, on the other hand, gets four-wheel drive as standard and can be specified with the automatic 'box.

● The Skoda Superb has added to its long list of industry and media accolades with another awards win. Fleet World magazine has awarded Skoda's flagship model its Best Upper Medium car title for the second year in succession.

Commenting on the Superb's triumph, the Fleet World Honours judging panel concluded: "With its upmarket styling, cavernous interior space and incredible value for money, the Superb punches well above its weight in this segment. Factor in some great engine options and it's impossible to argue with, increasingly taking customers from premium brands and with sales weighted towards higher trim levels."

Since its launch in 2015, the Superb has won 19 UK automotive industry titles, including Scottish Car of the Year, Auto Express Best Family Car and Estate Car, The Telegraph Best Family Car and What Car? Best Estate Car.

The Superb has proved to an exceptionally popular choice with fleet operators and company car drivers since its introduction. Along with the Yeti and Octavia, the Superb range features a special SE Technology trim grade that has been specifically fine-tuned to meet the demands of fleet drivers and operators. Superb SE Technology prices start from £22,780 for the hatch and £24,060 for the estate version.



The Superb has added another trophy to its cupboard



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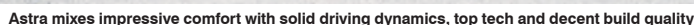
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By Antony Martyn

The Astra's cabin is made up of hordes of dark plastics and austere expanses of cloth trim, which makes it feel slightly



Amazingly, though, the Astra is perfectly adequate in 1.0-litre guise. It's by no means the pick of the engine range, but it's far better than you might expect. Admittedly, the 103bhp output is never going to set the world on fire, and the chances of achieving the claimed economy in the real world are slim, yet it's a serviceable little engine that borders on being characterful.



The engine is, in many ways, a reflection of the car itself. It isn't the best driver's car in its class – the Mazda3 and Ford Focus surpass it on that front – and nor is it the best built, but it offers a very comfortable ride and

Our mid-range 1.0-litre Astra test car came in at £21,205, and for that included goodies such as 17-inch alloys, air conditioning and satellite navigation, as well as the OnStar connectivity and service assistant – something usually reserved for more premium cars.

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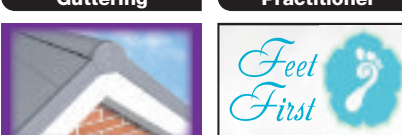
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ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST. THE BEST! Est 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands. Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. We have watched them all come and go. Call: 01902 885985 ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/dtv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251.
CLEAR VISION Aerials Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA
Cheerfultrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

domestic cleaning

CLEAN for you (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs.
Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.
12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.
ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07585 320318.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards. £6.95
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W.bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

gas fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664
/07969 687832

GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/
07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Casuar.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

LOCK & CARPENTRY

Plumbing, Slabbing and Roofing. 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

house clearances

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07919 921736

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painters & Decorators. Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken. 01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.
CAD DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com
BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING All roofing services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897
STEVES PLASTERING Service Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers. Blockages 07976 012468
LAURIE KENNEDY domestic plumbing. No job too small. Insured. No call out fee: 07901 345884.

plumbing & heating

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Larger warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."

Martin - Centra Heat

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

K NASH & SON CH

combi boiler & 6 radiators £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/07973 721205. www.knashandsonheating.co.uk

CENTRA HEAT

Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate. Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs £200 OFF/Trade in old boiler Installed in March. T&C apply

01902 845211

roofing

ONE STOP ROOFING

The Flat Roofing Specialists
Specialising in: Felt, Fibreglass & Tiling, Repointing & Chimney Repairs, Fascias and Guttering.

FOR 1 MONTH ONLY
GET YOUR FLAT ROOF REPLACED WITH FIBREGLASS FOR THE SAME PRICE AS A FELT ROOF & GUARANTEED FOR 25 YEARS
(Felt only 10 year guarantee)

Family Business est 30 Years
0800 0855277 or 07538471274

ROOFING

main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-8pm. 01902 722447.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

S T ROOFING All roofing work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single items/Full loads from £20. A/P discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed/Load/Remove any Waste. House Clearance. 07969 628382

showers

SHOWERS
Supplied/Fitted
Replaced/Repaired
Bath to Shower Conversions
Call James for a FREE quote.
07908 052470 / 01902 758494

skip hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save \$\$\$
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!"

It definitely works for us!"

Grinsells Skip Hire.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR. Est 35 years, 01384 232559.

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign"

Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AT BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite re-upholstered / repaired or cleaned. Free Est. 01902 404698.
UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/4 springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR GUNS, VINTAGE/ ANTIQUE GUNS, SHOT GUNS, TAXIDERM - BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED.
07968 624202

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

5 Business & Farming

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

plant, machinery & tools

R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD
Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates. Anywhere in the Midlands.
Call 01384 211420 / 07793 079103
randjsiteservices@hotmail.com

plant, machinery & tools

WHY USE SCAFFOLDING?
When a Niftylift 120t will do the job!
from **£50** *VAT per day!
Suitable for Trade & DIY
Hire . Sales . Training . Service
www.facelift.co.uk
*minimum one week hire
facelift call us on **0121 313 07 77**

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

A ONE BED FLAT Willenhall W'ton DSS ok. Off Road Parking and Central Heating 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ROOMS NETHERTON Refurnished with Parking. From £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk Double inc bills. No DSS. 07770 717139 or 07940 116130.

land

SINGLE BUILDING plot, Bradmore, planning permission for. Lungalow. £45,000. Exchange considered. 07774 898966. 01902 747180.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6
or **01384 500 500** 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties

FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped

We can buy your house in **2 days**

0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

pink sell quick
run by women

- No Fees*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

0800 044 8109 call free 24 hours **01922 689023**

Private Investor

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

Telephone
07756 022973
straight forward investment solutions

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer*
- Free solicitors
- Any condition
- No fees*

0800 783 2822
01384 226086

Demark Homes
Part of the PI Group

STOP WE PAY MORE!
100% every time*
Free Solicitors No Fees*
Any Property*
Any Condition*

01902 628 047 PI Group *Subject to terms

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

For great business results call
01902 319 191

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

*Terms and Conditions apply

HOUSE WANTED FOR RENOVATION
or Extension or house with Land, wolverhampton area, cash waiting.
Call 07780 705991.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

7 Jobs

full time - general

FULLY EXPERIENCED GRP LAMINATOR/ MOULD-MAKER

required for full time, permanent position. Must have a minimum 10 years experience in mould making. RTV Rubber skills advantageous. Competitive pay based on skill level & experience.

Please call 01384 354354 between 8am - 4.30pm.

engineering
CNC TURNER Experienced on XYZ Machines, also with some milling experience. 0121 556 0275

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY
*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250 go to:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

T&C's apply

8 Motoring

cars over £1500



BMW 3 SERIES 2.0 320D M SPORT
Two door Coupe, 2011, 11 reg. Automatic with paddle shift. Xenon lights, 19ins low profile tyres, red/black leather, rear privacy windows. High motorway mileage but not for BMW. Must be seen. Competitively priced by private seller.
SOLD

IDEAL FIRST CAR

CITROEN C1
11 reg
Low mileage
MoT, group 1 insurance.
Excellent condition.
£1,895.
07432 010478.

LOW MILEAGE

CITROEN C2 VTR PETROL AUTOMATIC 2008.
15,500 miles.
MoT'd.
Blue metallic finish.
£2,495.
07890 508896.

AUTOMATIC

HONDA JAZZ I-VTECH ES CVT
Automatic petrol, 62 plate, 27,000 miles, full MoT, fsh. Sale due to bereavement, £3,200
07719 869469 or 07877 205863.



HYUNDAI i10 ACTIVE
2013. 16,000 miles. Black. E/W. Air bag. Air Con. FSH. MoT. Met Paint. C/L. One owner. PAS. One year warranty remaining. Excellent condition.
£3,995 ono.
07815 468783.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI COOPER S
2004/54 plate, six speed, grey, half leather, CD, air con, alloys,
new discs and pads,
MoT October, HPI clear, clean car,
£2,500.
07546 779139.

4X4

RANGE ROVER VOGUE
2006, 11 months MoT, 102,000 miles, in good condition, with SD design aero kit.
£9,000 ono.
07581 454773.



VW PASSATT HIGHLINE TDI 105 1.9 2008.
Gleaming Black.
68,000 miles.
MoT. Fully loaded.
Full leather.
£4,150.
07913 981460.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.



FIAT IDEA 1246CC DIESEL
05 Reg, MoT'd May,
good condition,
EW, CL, drives well.
£1,199 ono
07453 046600.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4
5dr Hatchback.
FSH, 03 plate
6 months MoT
Lady owner
Excellent condition.
£450.
01902 893582.

LOOK

FORD FOCUS 1.6LX
16v, silver, 2003, 53 reg, 5 door, hatchback, c/l, pas, e/w, alloy wheels, CD player, a/c, 120,000 miles, fsh, MoT May 2017, very good condition, drives excellent.
Bargain £495.
Telephone 07515 121289.

FORD FOCUS LX

1.8 W REG
6 months MoT.
Good reliable car.
Clean interior.
£350 ono.
07960 737875.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD FOCUS ZETEC
1600, 55 plate, 3-dr.
Petrol, blue, 12 months MoT.
Recent service history.
Alloys, factory fitted CD.
Front and rear heated screens, time belt done.
£850 onvo.
07870 241804.

BARGAIN

FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA
2004 plate, 84k,
same owner last 4 years,
Blue,
Long MoT.
£500.
07913 981460.



HONDA ACCORD AUTO V-TEC
100,000 miles, green metallic, electric windows, long MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, alloys, year Dec 2000, X reg, very reliable run around.
£300.
SOLD

LOW MILEAGE

HONDA CIVIC 1.4
Y reg., one lady owner from new, genuine 48,000 miles.
SOLD.



KIA RIO
2004, 44,000 miles, 5dr, Silver. ABS, Air Con, Long MoT, PAS, Stereo, CD, Recent cam belt change. Drives lovely, cheap to run, Reliable.
£850 ono.
07462 766144.



NISSAN MICRA
2002. 71k miles.
5 months MoT.
Good runner.
£450 ono.
07826 778384.

NISSAN MICRA 1.3. 1998, 49,950 miles, 6 months MoT, blue metallic paint, central locking, sunroof, alloys, CD, 5600, 01384 232596.

MUST BE SEEN

PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE
2015 (65 reg), 2,778 miles, purple, 5-dr, 1.0, careful lady owner, no tax, very economical, low insurance.
Excellent condition, as new.
MoT till Dec 24, 2018,
manufacturers warranty expires Dec 24, 2018.
recently serviced
£6,600 ono.
01384 385663.

MANY EXTRAS

PEUGEOT 206 SE
2005, 5dr, 1997 HDi, service history, £130pa tax, full MoT, blue, good condition, drives superb, AC, climate, four electric windows plus extras,
£1,050 ono.
07847 628131.

BARGAIN

RENAULT LAGUNA ALIZE
2000, 5-dr hatchback, sun roof, electric windows, CD player, new tyres, tow bar, very reliable Family / work car,
MoT April 2017.
£650.
01746 764455. 07772 836066.



ROVER 211
2000, 26,000 Miles, Petrol, Red, air bag, FSH, PAS, alarm, MoT October 2017, Stereo, 2 owners from new
£750 ono
01384 355969



SUZUKI IGNIS SPORT
2004 reg, 75,000 miles, 1.5L, two previous owners, Silver, abs, 12 months MoT, central locking, pas, Alloys, CD, Recaro Seats, Great Condition
£800 ono.
07402 867767,

BARGAIN

SUZUKI LIANA
1600cc, 2002, 5dr hatchback, petrol, silver, owned by lady past 2 years, approx 75,000 miles only, MoT Sept 2017, new battery, good reliable car.
£395 ono for quick sale.

07528 072920
After 6pm Monday to Friday.
Anytime Weekends.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VAUXHALL CORSA 2003
1.2,
99,000 miles
5dr
Silver
FSH
12 months MoT.
£550 ono.
07591 440263.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1400
Full MoT, silver, good runner / condition inside and out, radio/CD, alloys.
£675 ono.

classic cars

01902 862610.
classic cars
CLASSIC CAR
MG8 GT, 1968
Yellow, 38,000 genuine miles, part restoration by last owners. Valued @ £7,000.
Genuine reason for sale.
MoT Sept 2017.
Sell for £4,500 ono.
For more information call 07801 062339.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer. Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652953 or 07773 462797.
driving tuition
Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM 5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk
AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.
scrap vehicles

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM 5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk
AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

scrap vehicles

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM 5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Free Unlimited Theory
07517 845477
www.driveallseasons.co.uk
AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80, £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

scrap vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ
OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110, Toyota Yaris
Glas, Micras
Ring for quotes on others!
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

spares/parts

THULE HIRE & SALES
Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers. Best Prices. Wolves Hire
01902 746723 WV6 0LE

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)
JOSEPHINE SIMS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 260 Stourbridge Road Dudley West Midlands DY1 2EE, who died on 12/10/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 05/05/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
TALBOTS LAW LTD
63 Market Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1AQ T494370

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE
An application for a new premises licence has been made by C.C. Cooper (Lye) Limited, to South Staffordshire District Council in respect of premises to be known as The Staffordshire Golf Club, Bridgnorth Road, Swindon, Dudley, Staffordshire DY3 4PU
The application is as follows:
1. To enable the retail sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0600-0200 hours.
2. Plays, Films, Indoor Sporting Events, Live music, recorded music, or anything of a similar description, performance of dance every day of the year, Monday to Sunday 0600-0200 hours.
3. Late Night Refreshment 2300 hours to 0200 hours Monday to Sunday every day of the year.
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10 Personals

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Relegation fight aside Jones is back for talk

EVEN a survival mission at the edge of the Football League won't stop the first manager to take Wolves into the Premier League returning to Wolverhampton.

Dave Jones has a relegation fight on his hands after coming back into football with League Two strugglers Hartlepool United, writes Craig Birch. The 60-year-old had been booked to appear at the Cleveland Arms Sports Bar, on Stowheath Lane, on Thursday March 30 before accepting the top job at the Victoria Ground.

But Jones has confirmed with organisers Sports Talk Events he will be in the Black Country as planned for the date, where he's set for a warm reception from a healthy pro-Wolves crowd.

Wolves legend Steve Bull will join him as a second special guest.

Jones was in charge at Molineux from January 2001 to November 2004. His crowning glory came in the 2003 Championship play-off final, where he masterminded Wolves' triumph and lifted the only trophy of his 20-year plus managerial career.

They emphatically defeated Sheffield United 3-0 through a first-half blitz at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

Trophies to hit road in cricket double promo

TROPHIES for the ICC Trophy and Women's World Cup are to hit the road ahead of this summer's cricketing tournaments.

Dates have been announced when they will take to the streets of the host cities. Sponsored by Nissan, the Trophy Tour will see both the ICC Champions Trophy and ICC Women's World Cup spend 31 days travelling around the seven cities. They will start in Taunton on May 2 and finish at The Oval on June 2 for England v Bangladesh. The tour will be in Birmingham from May 13-17.

ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said: "The Trophy Tour is the start of what will be a fantastic summer of cricket in the UK with two major back-to-back events – the ICC Champions Trophy followed by the ICC Women's World Cup."

The two trophies will visit schools, clubs, venues and landmarks throughout May. Full details of all the activities will be announced in the coming months.

Nissan Global Head of Marketing and Brand Strategy Roel de Vries added: "We partnered with the ICC to bring cricket fans closer to the excitement of the game."

I'm ready to bounce back, says Zaber

OLD HILL boxer Manny Zaber is ready to bounce back stronger as he returns to the ring on Saturday following a first career loss last time out.

Zaber suffered defeat at the hands of Josh Baillie in the first title bout of his pro career on November 19. The 22-year-old suffered a cut above his left eye, forcing his team to make the decision for him to retire in the fifth round.

The 'Pac Man' is set to return to the ring on March 4 at Walsall's Town Hall and insists he can't wait to get back in there.

"I'm ready to go now," he said. "I can't wait just to get back in the ring." Saturday will mark Zaber's 10th fight since turning professional two years ago. He is joined by a host of Black Country boxers on BCB Promotions' No Guts, No Glory show.

Walsall super lightweight Luke Paddock headlines in an eight-round contest alongside Tipton's Ricky Summers, Wolverhampton bantamweight Kyle Williams also features.

There is also women's boxing on the card as West Bromwich welterweight Lauren Johnson makes her professional debut.



Harry Worrall has been refereeing junior football for over 40 years



Awards ceremony – Harry Worrall with Kelvin Brittain

Ref Harry has no plans to blow full-time whistle

HARRY WORRALL may have reached another impressive milestone, but he has no plans to blow the full-time whistle on his refereeing days.

The 78-year-old from Deansfield has been honoured by the Wolverhampton Referees' Association for 50 years sterling service and is determined to add a few more seasons to his tally. Football League official Ray Olivier checked in at The Clarendon to present the award as Worrall joined Alex Hamil and John Kyte in an exclusive club with 50 years under their belts.

And Worrall is still going strong. He can be found calling the shots from the middle or chugging up and down touchlines across the Black Country in the Midland Junior League, Wolverhampton Sunday League and Bilston Youth Partnership.

And the 'old school' virtues are still very much on display. While some modern-day refs relish being in the spotlight, Worrall has always been happy to go unnoticed.

A quiet word here and there and a relaxed approach have served him well over the years, and helps ensure respect on both sides.

Respect

"I have really enjoyed it, and still do. That's why I carry on," said Worrall. "I am not as fit as I used to be, but I still get around and I have a lot of experience."

"I have had a bit of stick at times, but nothing major. It's all about man-management and how you talk to the players. You see the refs on the telly pointing their fingers and shouting 'come here' to the players. I never did that. I have a quiet word and talk to them in the right manner and sort things out. You have to talk to them properly to get their respect."

"I hadn't used to dish many cards out, in fact I haven't shown anyone a card for 20 years. The good refs are the ones that you don't notice."

Worrall first got the refereeing bug in English football's golden year, 1966, when he swapped playing for officiating.

"I used to play for Star Aluminium in the Wolverhampton Works League," he said. "I played at right-back and then ended up in goal! Someone mentioned

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

As long as I can get up and down the pitch, I will carry on."

that the league were struggling for referees, so I went along and took the course. Within three seasons I had got my Class One, which was the top rank.

"I have really enjoyed it and made some really good friends over the years. My only regret is that I didn't start at an earlier age. Who knows, I might have got to the very top if I had done?"

"I intend to carry on as long as I can. I still think I have another two or three seasons left. As long as I can get up and down the pitch, I will carry on."

Worrall has plenty to be proud of during his whistle-blowing days with a day out at Wembley one of the many highlights, while he also caught an early glimpse of a talented youngster by the name of Wayne Rooney.

"I refereed the final of a Coca Cola Tournament at Wembley, but I can't remember the teams," said Worrall, who also officiated in a girls tournament in Minnesota as well as numerous local league finals.

"But I can remember taking charge of an England Schools game between Wolverhampton and Liverpool and Wayne Rooney played for Liverpool. I checked the name after the game because he played really well and looked a very good player."

"I refereed a Central League game at Wolves and Steve Bull played. He was facing a ban so he had a run out for the reserves against Peterborough and scored five times."

"I have had a laugh with him about that a few times over the years, he said it was the only time he scored five goals in a game. I was also the ref for former Wolves defender Frank Munro's testimonial."

Worrall is also a well-known figure around Molineux where he used to help in Wolves' press office on match-days.

"They used to call me Uncle Fester because I wore a big, long black coat," he joked. Not surprisingly Wolverhampton's most famous official Jack Taylor, who took charge of the 1974 World Cup final between West Germany and Holland, tops Worrall's list of best refs with another local ex-Football League man, Hamil, not far behind.

"I ran the line in a game once with Alex Hamil on the opposite side and Jack Taylor in the middle," said Worrall. "Jack was the best referee I have ever seen, number one for me."

"I got to know him quite well and he was a really nice, down-to-earth bloke. I still haven't seen a better ref than him. Alex was very good too, he had the players' respect and treated them with respect too."

Of the modern day officials, Andre Marriner gets a nod of approval from Worrall, but he is not too complimentary towards the pundits who sit in the studio.

"I do feel for the refs these days with everything being so analysed," added Worrall. "The pundits annoy me because they sit there in the studio and watch an incident over and over again from different camera angles and then slaughter the ref."

Difficult

"The ref only has a split-second to make a decision. People should have a go themselves and then they would realise just how difficult a job it is."

Worrall joins Hamil and Kyte as the exclusive members of the Wolverhampton Referees' Association's 50 club and is proud to be part of an elite group.

"It's a real honour to receive the award," he said. "And I am proud to be a member of the Wolverhampton RA, it's the biggest and best in the country with over 140 members."

"Quite a few family members were there to see me receive my award and Ray Olivier was brilliant. It was a nice night and a bit emotional."

WRA chairman Phil Reade was full of praise for his colleague's achievement.

"Harry is well liked by us all and what he has done is marvellous achievement," said Reade. "Ray Olivier said when he was on duty at Molineux, Harry always looked after him."

"It's unbelievable to still be refereeing at 78. He is one of those refs that says get on with it, it's a man's game. He used to man manage people really well."

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Perry's back on form with five victories

CRADLEY racer Tom Perry has been back on a bike for the first time since last season – and it was like he'd never been away.

Perry, who makes a return to the Heathens after two successful seasons on loan at Birmingham, romped to five wins in Scunthorpe's open meeting on Sunday. And he says he's raring to go for the new season with the Heathens looking to dethrone the Brummies in the bid for title glory.

He added: "I'm just really excited to get racing again now. I was back on a bike at Scunthorpe last weekend for the first time since October. It was only an amateur meeting but I won all five races and felt like I hadn't been off the bike at all to be honest. We've got some big meetings early in the season and it's important to get a good start."

The Heathens will launch their season with a special event with supporters at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Friday, March 10. All the riders will be present and they will be handed their 2017 race jacket by Dean and Adam Bridge from loyal club sponsors Motor Market.

They will then travel to Perry's former club, Birmingham for a challenge match on Wednesday, March 22 before hosting King's Lynn at Perry Barr a week later.

Their return to Monmore Green will come against Mildenhall on Easter Monday (April 17, 7.30) – and Perry can't wait to get started.

Perry is also relishing a battle for top spot in the Heathens team with high profile signing Danny Ayres level on his riding average going into the campaign. He said: "It's good to have two experienced riders at the top of the team, but it doesn't really matter too much who is at No.1. I get on well with Danny. We've known each other for a few years now and I'm looking forward to riding with him this season."

Skelding shines as Pedmore beat Enville by five wickets

IN the Kinver Indoor Cricket league, Pedmore (80-1) beat Enville (76) by five wickets. Enville batting first with openers Jono Howells and Tom Bingham put on 44 for the first wicket, losing next five wickets for 32 against some quick bowling from Paul Taylor and Dave Skelding. Captain Jono Howells returned to crease and tried to repair the damage but could not find batsman to stay with him.

Pedmore in reply the same as Enville got off to a good start especially Dave Skelding finding a bit of form lost their first wicket at 43. John Herdman then set about the Enville bowling who were finding it hard to contain the batsman passing the total with one over to spare.

Dave Skelding had a good all round performance with bat and ball being 25 n/o and taking 2-10 in his three overs.

Hagley B (90-4) edged out Oldswinford (77-5) by 13 runs. Hagley B made a steady start losing first wicket at 37. Captain Steve Plant threw caution to the wind hitting some mighty 4s joined by Ian Moss to push the score to 77. Oldswinford captain Harry Stanier was the only batsman to show any fight.

Stour trio help England Counties win



Sam Baker, Nile Dacres and Pete White

AN ex-Stourbridge trio featured in England Counties 45-28 win over Scotland Club XV at Birmingham Moseley RFC, avenging defeat in last year's clash.

Featuring were replacement winger Sam Baker (currently with Amphill & District in National League 1), 2nd row Nile Dacres (Plymouth Albion) and scrum half Pete White (Coventry).

England opened the scoring through hooker Matthew Miles but Scotland responded when George Taylor weaved his way through. Steve Leonard ran in to score

Rugby

but the final try of the first half went the way of Scotland wing Jordan Edmunds.

The second half saw Edmunds score again but England closed the gap through the boot of fly half Joe Tarrant. From the restart Leonard made a fed Leo Fielding to run it in. The floodgates then opened for England Counties with three further tries through Stokes, Fielding and Leonard. John Cox scored a consolation.

GLASSBOYS IN POLE POSITION

Stourbridge 2 Stafford Rangers 0
STOURBRIDGE seized control of a frenetic clash to beat fired-up Stafford Rangers 2-0 and cement their place at the head of the play-off pack.

Goals from Jordan Archer and on-loan defender Dan Preston at either end of the match saw the Glassboys through but Boro more than played their part in an engaging encounter.

Within 90 seconds, Shrewsbury Town loanee Ethan Jones was slipped in to hit the crossbar from the right side of the box for the hosts.

Josh Gordon, understood to be on the verge of a move to Leicester City, appeared offside but cut back for Kyle Perry to spurn a golden chance for Stafford as Matt Gould saved at his feet.

The opener arrived when Stuart Pierpoint lofted a well-weighted ball for Archer to force his way through, round Adam Whitehouse and calmly finish 11 minutes in.

Perry's first-time hit towards an open goal from Gould's hurried clearance bounced wide and the visitors' big target man was thwarted at point-blank range when his instinctive near-post volley flew straight at the stopper.

The tempo remained brisk without any further chances before half-time and Stourbridge tightened things up after the break.

Leon Broadhurst narrowly cleared the angle from Tonks's long throw on 53 minutes as Rangers were kept at arm's length.

Preston later headed over a Tonks free-kick before the same combination sealed the points with seven minutes to play. A short corner was played to skipper Tonks whose centre was crashed home at the far post.

Whitby 1 Stourbridge 3

The Glassboys had to soak up pressure in the wind after conceding Dale Hopson's well-struck free-kick inside three minutes.

A long Tom Tonks throw was nudged home by Benbow on 56 minutes but Darryl Westlake almost gifted promotion rivals Whitby a second with a short back pass with Matt Gould called upon to save from Michael Roberts. From there, Stourbridge did not look back with Benbow involved in the melee that saw the second fly in. It was eventually credited to Tonks, who had taken the set piece. Ethan Jones made the points safe.

Nick is reaching great heights



Pole vaulter Nick Cruchley from Stourbridge in action at Sheffield at the BUCS National Finals

POLE VAULTER Nick Cruchley was delighted to get back towards his best as he bagged himself a bronze medal at the BUCS National Finals.

The 27-year-old from Stourbridge – a PhD student at the University of Birmingham – soared to 5.30 metres at the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) event in

Sheffield. "I got 5.30m and I was attempting 5.40, which is two centimetres below my PB, so it's good to be back up to where my PB is," said Cruchley.

"I don't know how many BUCS I have competed at, but this was probably the toughest one for me."

British Universities & Col-

leges Sport (BUCS) is the national governing body for Higher Education (HE) sport in the UK, organising leagues and competitions for more than 150 institutions across 52 different sports.

BUCS Nationals is the UK's largest annual multi-sport event, bringing over 6,000 athletes to Sheffield.

DKs in 'FA Cup' of cross country runs

AFTER bringing the cross country season to a close a fortnight ago there was one fixture left on the calendar for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to compete in – and what a race to finish with, the National Cross Country Championship. It's the equivalent of the cross country runners FA Cup final.

With the race held on a three year rotation with the North, Midlands and South taking turns, this year was the turn of the Midlands with the race held at Wollaton Park in Nottingham.

More than 8,000 runners entered in various races across gender and age groups.

The ladies were off first running over a three lap course covering 8k with some inclines and long stretches of boggy ground. Helen Tromans was first home for the hoops in 304th place in 38.35, Hannah McGuire was 492nd in 42.49, Carrol Fisher finished in 47.43 to take 660th place and Cilla Harding was 753rd in 53.52.

With the ladies teams restricted to just four runners, the DK ladies were placed 80th in the country of the 93 clubs.

With a couple of drop outs, the men were unable to field a team in an event where clubs needed to run six athletes to count but the four sixths of a team remaining still made the trip to represent the club knowing they wouldn't appear in the team rankings.

On a similar course to the ladies but a lap longer, Rob Sannwald was first back, getting the best of a prolonged battle with Mark Homer over the 12k course with each taking it in turns to lead.

Sannwald stalking his team mate for the best part of the last lap before coming home in 55.37 in 1031st place, Homer was only a few seconds behind claiming 1037th place in 55.44.

Yeltz are held to a draw at home

Halesowen Town 1 Barwell 1

HALESOWEN and Barwell shared the points in a competitive Evo-Stik Premier contest.

The Yeltz grabbed a 57th-minute lead when Ethan Delaney squared the ball for the unmarked Danny Bragoli to calmly convert.

The hosts almost doubled the lead five minutes later when Delaney steered just over the bar.

But Barwell hauled themselves level in the 76th minute when Mwanyongo drilled a low shot into the bottom corner of the net from the edge of the penalty area.

★★★

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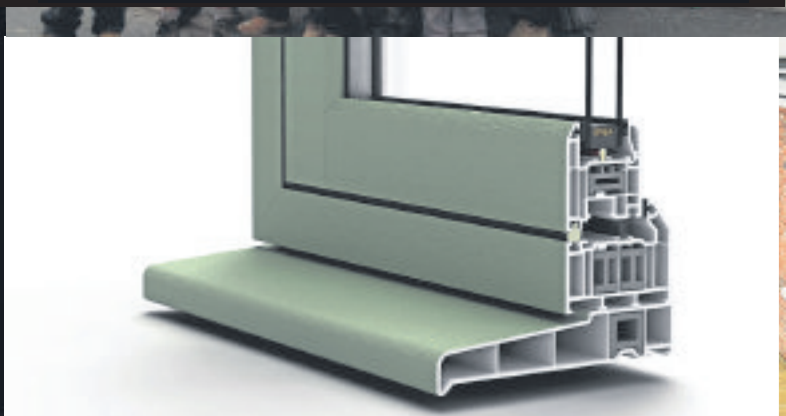
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